

From  
the People of Japan

# White Paper on Development Cooperation 2023

Japan's International Cooperation



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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# Foreword

The world is now at history's turning point. While the international community faces compound crises such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the situation in the Middle East, and global challenges including climate change and infectious diseases, the importance of developing and emerging countries called the "Global South" is increasing.

As a responsible major power, Japan must maintain and strengthen its advocacy for the free and open international order based on the rule of law so that all people can enjoy peace. We must pursue diplomacy to realize a safe and secure world where human dignity is protected based on the SDGs principle of "leaving no one behind."

To this end, it is critical to implement ODA, one of the most important tools of diplomacy, in a more strategic and effective manner. In June 2023, Japan revised the Development Cooperation Charter for the first time in eight years, declaring our commitment to promoting ODA that contributes to both resolving the challenges of developing countries and realizing Japan's national interests, such as socio-economic growth, by the "co-creation" of social value through dialogue and collaboration with developing countries.

2024 marks the 70th anniversary of Japan's ODA. In implementing ODA, I will focus on the following three key areas to contribute to both the peace and prosperity of the international community and the realization of Japan's national interests.

The first is to advance efforts to achieve "quality growth" in the new era. Under the new Development Cooperation Charter, Japan will launch the "Co-creation for common agenda initiative," which proposes attractive cooperation menus that leverage Japan's strengths, and initiate ODA that mobilizes private-sector funds. By further promoting public-private partnership, we aim to achieve quality growth in developing countries, while resolving Japan's challenges and promoting our economic growth.

The second is to contribute to the sustainable development of a free and open world. As part of our ODA efforts to promote the new plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," Japan will strive to support the development of legal and judicial systems, peacebuilding, the enhancement of connectivity, and the realization of resilience, sustainability, and other matters. Japan is firmly committed to not allowing any attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, and to maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law. To demonstrate this commitment, Japan will continue to provide a wide range of support to Ukraine and its neighboring countries, utilizing the outcomes of the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction. Furthermore, Japan will provide swift assistance to people in vulnerable situations, including the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

The third is to lead international efforts to address increasingly complex and serious global challenges. Based on the concept of human security, Japan will steadfastly address areas such as food and energy, climate change and the environment, global health, refugees and displaced persons, and Women, Peace and Security

(WPS), aiming for the resolution of challenges facing all humankind and the achievement of the SDGs. The international trust that Japan has fostered through human-centered development cooperation is an important asset and the driving force for Japan's diplomatic capability. Leveraging this trust, Japan will promote our own style of fine-tuned development cooperation to protect "human dignity," while standing with vulnerable countries facing various challenges. In doing so, Japan will make strong and rapid efforts through strategic and agile utilization of bilateral cooperation and contributions to international organizations.

In order to vigorously advance these efforts, it is also essential not only to utilize ODA more strategically and effectively, but also to expand and strengthen its foundation, in light of the changes of era. At the same time, it goes without saying that ODA, funded by public resources, is a diplomatic tool supported by the understanding and cooperation of the people of Japan. We will sincerely explain to the people how ODA contributes to ensuring the peace and stability of the citizens, maintaining their daily lives, and promoting Japan's economic growth. To maximize the development effects of ODA, we will further strengthen cooperation for solidarity with private companies, public financial institutions, international organizations, NGOs, local governments, and other relevant partners. The entire world, including Japan, is interconnected. Contributing more actively to building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international society under a free and open order through development cooperation directly leads to Japan's national interests.

The White Paper on Development Cooperation 2023 reports on the implementation status of Japan's development cooperation over the past year to the people of Japan. Gaining the understanding and support of the public is essential for the implementation of development cooperation, and we will sincerely listen to the voices of the public and strive to carry it out more strategically and effectively. I hope that this White Paper will be read by as many people as possible and that it will help deepen people's understanding of Japan's development cooperation efforts and their significance.

March 2024

**Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**KAMIKAWA Yoko**





# Introduction: Significance of Japan's International Cooperation

Japan has achieved reconstruction and economic growth after the war with assistance from developed countries and international organizations at that time. Since then, it has provided various support to a total of 190 countries and regions. In 2022, Japan's total Official Development Assistance (ODA) was ranked third, following the United States and Germany, which demonstrates that Japan plays an important role as a responsible country in the international community.

Currently, the world is facing compound crises, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the recent situation in the Middle East, and global issues such as climate change and infectious diseases. A crisis that occurs somewhere in the world is not necessarily "someone else's problem," and it could also have a significant impact on Japan. Japan will play its role as a responsible major power in the international community in addressing these challenges that a single country alone cannot resolve, and this will contribute to Japan's peace and prosperity. In addition, given that the country imports much of its energy and food and many of its companies are engaged in overseas economic activities, ODA, which aims to stabilize the regions in the world and respond to global challenges, constitutes an essential contribution to supporting these activities.

Building on that idea, in the new Development Cooperation Charter, approved by the Cabinet in June 2023, Japan sets out the following objectives of development cooperation: (1) to work together with developing countries to address their development challenges and global issues common to all humankind based on equal partnerships, and to contribute even more actively to the creation of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community under a free and open international order based on the rule of law; (2) at the same time, while developing a favorable international environment for Japan and the world and preserving and strengthening foreign relations based on trust, to contribute to the pursuit of Japan's national interests, such as the maintenance of peace and security for Japan and its people and the achievement of further prosperity through economic growth.

Moreover, in the new Development Cooperation Charter, Japan proposed strengthening the Co-creation for common agenda initiative. Under this initiative, Japan will proactively propose appealing cooperation menus that leverage its strengths in development cooperation, centered around ODA, in the areas that should be strategically addressed from a foreign policy perspective. Japan will formulate projects through dialogue and collaboration with the partner countries, addressing challenges of both Japan and partner countries while also contributing to Japan's economic growth.



Commemorative stamps in Ghana designed to honor the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research. Through its support for the institute, Japan contributes to the development of human resources in the field of medical research in the country.



Demonstration testing of a solar power generation system in Morocco through the use of ODA. It determined the superiority of the Concentrator Photovoltaic System that Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. developed, leading to a direct contract with the Government of Morocco for a larger-scale demonstration project.



Children holding up messages of gratitude to the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Medical Team dispatched to Türkiye, following the massive earthquake that occurred in the southeastern part of Türkiye in February 2023 (Photo: JICA)



Japan's development cooperation, which will mark its 70th anniversary in 2024, has been highly appreciated by local people in partner countries. It has greatly contributed to building amicable bilateral relations with developing countries and to enhancing their trust in Japan in the international arena. As an expression of their appreciation to and their confidence in Japan, some developing countries have adopted the images of cooperation with Japan in the design of their own banknotes and postage stamps. Also, at the time of disasters, including the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan received many messages of sympathy and support from countries around the world, including developing countries. Moreover, Japan has received tremendous support from countries around the world, including developing countries, at elections in international organizations, as evidenced by the fact that Japan has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council 12 times, the highest number among all the UN Member States. These are the fruits of diplomatic efforts, including the strategic use of ODA. Also, they can be said to demonstrate the high level of trust and expectation that the international community has toward Japan. In an age of competition among nations, where uncertainty is increasing due to changes in the balance of power, it becomes even more important to strengthen relationships with countries, including developing countries, in order to uphold the international order based on the rule of law.

As globalization continues, an increasing number of Japanese companies are expanding their operations overseas. However, it is also true that there are challenges to business development in developing countries, such as underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of technical personnel, and opaque tax and legal systems. ODA has been utilized to address these challenges, conduct surveys and verification for business start-ups, and promote the use of Japanese technology, and it will continue to support the business development of Japanese companies in developing countries.

As the international community becomes increasingly interdependent, global issues are becoming more serious and complex beyond the capacity of any one country to solve. To ensure that the solving of these challenges helps maintain peace, security, and prosperity in the country, Japan shall continue to utilize ODA in an appropriate and transparent manner, and engage in more strategic and effective development cooperation in partnership with various stakeholders around the world.



**Romania**

**Ms. Valentina Shevchenko, shelter resident**  
(Photo: Good Neighbors Japan)

"I fled alone from Nikopol, which is close to the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. I am worried about the impact of the collapse of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant dam in Kherson Oblast, and I am also worried about my sister-in-law, who remains in an area occupied by the Russian forces. Nonetheless, the people in Romania have welcomed me warmly. I can use the shower at the shelter and do my laundry as well. So I feel relieved. I am also glad that I can celebrate New Years, Christmas, and such other occasions." (The project managed by Good Neighbors Japan (GNJP). See page 111 for details)



**Dominican Republic**

**Dr. Yankel Sena, JICA former-training participant (center)**

"I studied at the Faculty of Medicine, Oita University, as a trainee of the JICA Development Studies Program and completed my doctoral program. Taking to heart the words of my mentor at the university 'Study hard and make use of what you learned to benefit everyone,' I would like to take back to my country the Japanese cutting-edge knowledge I have acquired in the field of cancer treatment."

## Development Cooperation Charter and Japan's Development Cooperation

Japan's development cooperation is founded on the Development Cooperation Charter<sup>1</sup> (revised by Cabinet decision on June 9, 2023). The Charter defines the objectives of Japan's development cooperation as follows: to work together with developing countries to address their development challenges and global issues common to all humankind through equal partnerships and contribute proactively to the creation of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community under a free and open international order based on the rule of law; and to contribute to the pursuit of Japan's national interests, such as the maintenance of peace and security for the country and its people and the achievement of further prosperity through economic growth, while developing a favorable international environment for Japan and the world, as well as preserving and strengthening foreign relations based on trust. The Official Development Assistance (ODA) is expected to serve ever more strategically and effectively as one of the most important foreign policy tools (see Part I, Section 1 on page 2 for the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter).

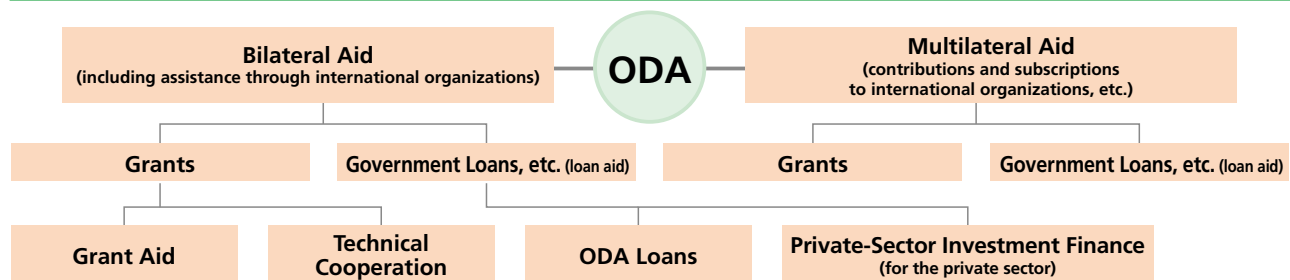
### 1. Basic policies of the Development Cooperation Charter

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

### 2. Priority issues of the Development Cooperation Charter

In line with these basic policies, Japan pursues the following three policy priorities: "'quality growth' in the new era and poverty eradication through such growth," "the realization of a peaceful, secure, and stable society, and the maintenance and development of a free and open international order based on the rule of law," and "leadership in international efforts to tackle increasingly complex and aggravated global issues."

#### Japan's 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" (the Development Cooperation Charter), and ODA is the public funding for those activities. The government or its implementing agencies provide financial and technical assistance to developing regions, international organizations, or the private sector through ODA for "development," including peacebuilding, governance, promotion of basic human rights, and humanitarian assistance.

The ODA recipients are presented in the list (see Chart II-10 on page 22) compiled by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

#### ● What types of ODA exist?

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

Grants in **bilateral aid** are assistance provided to developing regions without repayment obligation. The grant scheme implemented by Japan is comprised of **grant aid**, which gives financial resources needed for the socio-economic development of developing regions without repayment obligation, and **technical cooperation**, which develops human resources that will be responsible for the socio-economic development of developing regions through the transfer of Japanese expertise, technology, and experience. Among contributions and investments to international organizations, contributions earmarked for specific countries and projects are accounted for as bilateral aid in statistics (see Chart II-1 on page 13).

Additionally, Japan's **government loans, etc. (loan aid)** in bilateral aid include **ODA loans** that lend the funds needed by developing regions on 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 private entities responsible for implementing projects in developing regions.

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

Various kinds of information about ODA are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.<sup>2</sup>

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

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



The Development Cooperation Charter is available here:

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



The White Paper on Development Cooperation 2023 and past White Papers are available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

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



Information on ODA is available here:

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



[Cover Photograph]



An expert providing technical cooperation and a local staff member under the "Belau Eco Glass Studio (Glass studio recycles used glass bottles) business development track Project," a JICA Partnership Program (JPP) in Palau (Photo: JICA)

[Back Cover Photograph]



Children smiling and holding the teaching-learning materials created as part of the "Advancing Quality Alternative Learning Project" in Pakistan (Photo: JICA)



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



In principle, this White Paper describes Japan's development cooperation implemented from January 1 through December 31, 2023. However, some matters that occurred through February 2024 are also included. Please note that all titles of individuals in the text are current as of the time of writing.



**Sri Lanka**

"Working together"

Photo: the Global Organization Of Dreamers!  
(good!)



**Nigeria**

"Delicious and nutritious!"

Photo: Moses Nongoatse from Sasakawa Africa  
Association

# Special Photograph Collection (1)

## - Stories from the Field -

This collection of photographs is from the "Global Festa JAPAN 2023" photo contest. (See page 153 for details.)



**Bolivia**

"Future Judokas (Judo practitioners)"

Photo: KOIZUMI Haruna



**Cambodia**

"I'm doing this for you. You're doing it for me."

Photo: SHIKI Miki





Türkiye

"Let's walk the same path together"  
Photo: Peace Winds Japan



Palau

"Fun physical education class on a southern island"  
Photo: ITO Hiromi



Philippines

"Reach the sky! The sound of the drums crosses borders."  
Photo: NPO DAREDEMO HERO



Malawi

"Beyond words"  
Photo: SATO Yu from International Support and Partnership for Health (ISAPH)



Kyrgyz Republic

"A stitch of happiness"  
Photo: NOBUTA Youkichi from Kobutasha/Jhibek Zholy





**Bangladesh** “Kanchpur, Meghna, and Gumti 2nd Bridges Construction and Existing Bridges Rehabilitation Project” (Yen Loan)

The Meghna Bridge, spanning the major river that divides the capital Dhaka and the second largest city, Chittagong. The project has eased traffic congestion and improved safety in the economic corridor by rehabilitating existing bridges and constructing second bridges. (Photo: A company involved in the Kanchpur, Meghna, and Gumti 2nd Bridges Construction and Existing Bridges Rehabilitation Project)



**Jordan** “Al-Muwaqqar Solar Energy Project” (Private-Sector Investment Finance)

Japan assisted in developing renewable energy sources, thereby contributing to mitigating the effects of climate change in Jordan, where there is an urgent need to meet the electricity demand of communities hosting refugees and develop power sources that do not rely on imports.

## Special Photograph Collection (2)

### - Stories from the Field -

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



**Tajikistan** “Project for Rehabilitation of Drinking Water Supply Systems in Pyanj District, Khatlon Region” (Grant Aid)

Supporting the rehabilitation, construction, and expansion of village water supply facilities ensured safe and stable water supply, improved the sanitary conditions of the residents in the target areas, and reduced the water drawing labor for children and women. (Photo: JICA)



**India** “Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project” (Yen Loan)

In the Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Delhi Metro), in which Japanese companies participated, workers were required to wear safety helmets and safety shoes and to keep equipment and materials in order. Awareness of safety measures in construction has spread throughout India. (Photo: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited)





#### Tunisia

#### "Project for Desalination of Groundwater in Southern Region" (Grant Aid)

The interior view of a plant that desalinizes highly saline groundwater using Japanese environmental technology. This plant has made it possible to secure drinking water for local residents in Tunisia, where the amount of precipitation is decreasing. (Photo: Japan International Cooperation System)



#### Kenya

#### "Mombasa Port Development Project" (Yen Loan)

A panoramic view of Mombasa Port, the largest international trading port in East Africa. Japan supported the construction of a container terminal and other items, contributing to the promotion of trade throughout the region. (Photo: TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD.)



#### Papua New Guinea

#### "Nadzab 'Tomodachi' Airport Redevelopment Project" (Yen Loan)

The construction and improvement of the passenger terminal building, runway, taxiways, and control tower have greatly enhanced essential air transportation in the island nation of Papua New Guinea. In the initiative of Prime Minister Marape of Papua New Guinea, the airport was renamed Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport as a symbol of the friendship between the two countries. (Photo: JICA)



#### Paraguay

#### "Eastern Region Export Corridor Improvement Project" (Yen Loan)

The paving of connection roads to ports located along rivers and the replacement of bridges have improved the transport capacity of Paraguay, which relies on river and road transport. (Photo: Ministry of Public Works and Communications)



#### Indonesia

#### "Construction of Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit Project" (Yen Loan)

Indonesia's first mass rapid transit system (MRT) is expected to help ease congestion in the Jakarta metropolitan area, where economic losses caused by traffic congestion are severe. (Photo: JICA)

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# Part I

## Revision of the Development Cooperation Charter and G7 Hiroshima Summit



Prime Minister Kishida, Chair of the G7 Hiroshima Summit, leaders of the other G7 and invited countries, and heads of international organizations at the Summit in May 2023

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# Revision of the Development Cooperation Charter and G7 Hiroshima Summit

Amid the world being at a historic turning point and facing multiple crises, it is increasingly important for the international community to transcend differences in values and cooperate with each other. At the same time, building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous international community under a free and open international order based on the rule of law directly leads to Japan's national interests. To this end, the role of development cooperation, one of the most important tools of Japan's diplomacy, is becoming increasingly important.

In light of these significant changes in the situation,

Japan announced in September 2022 that it would revise the Development Cooperation Charter, which articulates the basic policy of Japan's development cooperation policies. In June 2023, the Cabinet decided on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter for the first time in eight years.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit held under Japan's Presidency in May 2023, Prime Minister Kishida led discussions addressing key challenges faced by the international community, including development issues.

## 1

### Revision of the Development Cooperation Charter

The Development Cooperation Charter is a policy document that Japan's development cooperation policy is founded on. Its predecessor, the ODA Charter, was formulated in 1992. The name was changed to the Development Cooperation Charter when it was revised in 2015. The new Development Cooperation Charter was decided by the Cabinet on June 9, 2023.

#### (1) Background to the Revision of the Charter

Since the revision of the Charter in February 2015, many efforts have been made in order to address global issues through international cooperation, such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change. On the other hand, the free and open international order that supported peace and prosperity in the post-Cold War era faces severe challenges, and the international community is becoming increasingly fragmented and confrontational. The economy and security are now directly linked and impact each country, which is visible in the disruption of global supply chains due to rapidly changing international affairs, cybersecurity issues arising from rapid digitalization, and attempts to use economic dependence as a means of coercion.

With the world exposed to such uncertainty, developing countries face difficulties in charting a path to stable development. Poverty reduction efforts have become less likely to be addressed, and health issues, including infectious diseases, climate change, and environmental issues, have become more serious. Furthermore, refugees and displaced persons have increased all over the world, and food and energy crises have exacerbated humanitarian situations. Responses in accordance with the concept of human security are

urgently needed. The role of development cooperation becomes exceptionally vital, and a variety of actors, including the business community and civil society, are required to work together to address the situation.

In the meantime, as debt issues have become more serious in some developing countries, there is an increasing need for the international community as a whole to ensure development cooperation based on transparent and fair international rules. Furthermore, as the financing gap for achieving the SDGs is widening, it has become increasingly important to collaborate with various actors, including private companies, public financial institutions, international organizations, and civil society, as well as to make efforts to mobilize new funds.

In light of these significant changes in the situation since the Charter was formulated in 2015, the current revision aims to promote ODA that not only addresses the challenges faced by developing countries but also contributes to Japan's economic and social growth, by



Mr. NAKANISHI Hiroshi, chair of the "Advisory Panel on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter" and Professor at the Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University, submitting the report of the Advisory Panel to then Foreign Minister Hayashi



making use of development cooperation more effectively and strategically than ever as one of the most important tools of diplomacy.

The new Charter outlines the direction of Japan's development cooperation over the next approximately 10 years. In making the revision, the opinions of a wide range of experts and Japanese citizens were considered. These included recommendations by the Advisory Panel on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter, exchanges of opinions with various sectors such as the business community and civil society, public opinion exchange meetings held in multiple locations in Japan, and public comments.

## (2) Main Points in the Revision

### A. Basic Policies

One of the basic policies is to conduct development cooperation centered on human agency to ensure that each individual can live happily and with dignity, positioning "human security" in the new era as a guiding principle. Under this policy, Japan strives to work on "investment in people," such as the protection and empowerment of individuals, and to work together in "solidarity" among diverse actors to achieve common goals.

The new Development Cooperation Charter introduces the concept of "co-creation," with the aim of jointly creating new solutions and social values through dialogue and collaboration, placing developing countries at the core, and involving a variety of actors that each brings its strengths under equal partnerships. By bringing back home the new solutions and social values generated in this way, Japan also aims to develop human resources who will lead future generations in Japan and developing countries, and to lead them to solutions for Japan's own economic and social challenges and economic growth.

The Charter also stipulates as a basic policy that, amid the increase in assistance to developing countries from a more diverse range of actors in addition to conventional donors, Japan, as an actor involved in development cooperation, will lead the dissemination and implementation of international rules and guidelines for development cooperation based on inclusiveness, transparency, and fairness, and will realize cooperation that does not undermine the independence and sustainability of developing countries.

### B. Priority Policies

The Development Cooperation Charter sets out three priority policies.

The first priority policy is "'Quality growth' in the new era and poverty eradication through such growth." In an era of multiple crises, "quality growth" that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient is becoming increasingly important. Based on this, the Charter highlights that Japan will cooperate to secure the foundation and driving force

for economic growth, while also strengthening efforts to address challenges faced by developing countries, such as enhancing socio-economic autonomy and resilience in areas like food and energy security, as well as tackling new challenges such as digital transformation. Furthermore, considering the enormous demand for infrastructure in developing countries, Japan will combine cooperation on structural aspects, which makes use of its technological capabilities and knowledge, such as safety management, disaster risk reduction and resilience technologies, and addressing climate change and environmental issues, with cooperation on non-structural aspects, such as institutional development, participation in management and maintenance, and human resources development. In doing so, Japan will promote "quality infrastructure" through public-private collaboration.

The second priority policy is the "Realization of peaceful, secure, and stable societies, and maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order based on the rule of law," which is a prerequisite for "quality growth." Under the vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," Japan will work to enable developing countries to enjoy the fruits of economic growth unaffected by force and coercion. To this end, Japan will promote cooperation in areas such as support for the development of legal systems, realization of good governance, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding, and the strengthening of maritime security capacities, working together with developing countries to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

The third priority policy is "Leading international efforts to addressing increasingly complex and serious global issues." It is highlighted that Japan will strengthen efforts to accelerate initiatives in areas such as climate change and the environment, global health, disaster risk reduction, and education, which are urgent issues facing developing countries, while also actively contributing to international discussions on post-2030 development goals.

### C. Implementation

In order to vigorously promote these priority policies, the Development Cooperation Charter sets three evolved approaches in terms of implementation.

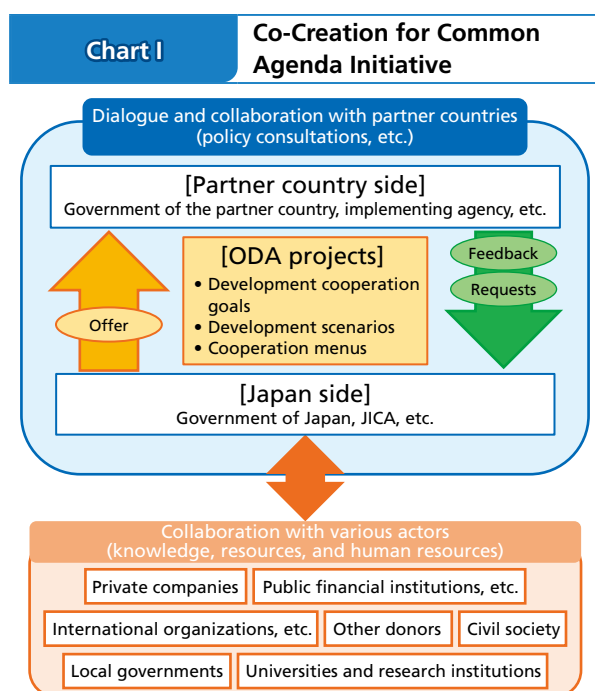
Firstly, under "solidarity to realize co-creation," Japan aims to strengthen cooperation for solidarity with various partners, including private companies, public financial institutions, etc., other donors, international organizations, civil society, local governments, universities and research institutions, human resources with knowledge about and affinity for Japan, and people of Japanese descent.

While the alignment of efforts toward the SDGs with corporate value has encouraged many private companies and investors to become more actively involved in addressing development challenges and to

promote initiatives for realizing a sustainable society, the importance of private finance for developing countries has also increased. In light of this, Japan will introduce new ODA schemes to promote the mobilization of private finance and to strengthen synergies between public and private finance.

In addition, it is also important that various actors bring together their strengths and create solutions through dialogue and collaboration. These actors include NGOs and other civil societies that are adept at providing prompt cooperation that is attuned to local needs, local governments that have experience and expertise as the main providers of basic administrative services, and universities and research institutions.

Secondly, under “further enhancement of strategic approach,” Japan seeks to strengthen its strategic cooperation by launching a new “Co-creation for common agenda initiative” that proactively proposes cooperation menus, mobilizing the advantage of Japan’s areas of strengths. In the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative,” Japan will jointly formulate development cooperation goals in areas that should be strategically addressed in relation to foreign policy, as well as development scenarios and cooperation menus for the realization of cooperation, through dialogue and collaboration with the partner countries, and then propose and create attractive projects for partner countries that leverage Japan’s strengths. In doing so, Japan aims to maximize the impact of development by involving various actors, bringing together their respective strengths and combining them in various forms of cooperation.



Japan selects and announces areas that are strategically important based on its foreign policy, and focuses ODA-related resources and human capitals in these areas. This is intended to enhance the predictability of project implementation, thereby encouraging the participation of various actors, including private companies, in ODA projects (Chart I). By doing so, Japan aims to make its development cooperation more proactive and strategic in order to address challenges facing developing countries as well as its own challenges and economic growth.

Thirdly, Japan will work constantly for a renewed “fine-tuned system design that meets the objectives” with flexibility, efficiency, and promptness as keywords. This includes proposing comprehensive cooperation packages through the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative,” strategically utilizing grant aid and technical cooperation for countries with relatively high income levels, and improving methods for providing emergency humanitarian assistance. Particularly in collaborating with private companies, promptness is important; therefore the project formulation process for grant aid will be expedited, and the approval process for technical cooperation will be streamlined.

### (3) Promoting the “Co-Creation for Common Agenda Initiative”

In September, to promote the newly launched “Co-creation for common agenda initiative,” Japan released the strategic document “Co-creation for common agenda initiative,”<sup>1</sup> which shows strategically important areas to be addressed and how to proceed with cooperation in line with Japan’s foreign policy. This strategic document identifies (i) Climate change response and GX (Green Transformation), (ii) Economic resilience, and (iii) Promotion of digitalization and DX (Digital Transformation) as areas of strategic importance on which Japan should focus its resources and human capital based on its foreign policies. Going forward, in accordance with this strategic document, Japan will jointly formulate development cooperation goals, development scenarios, and cooperation menus for respective areas through policy dialogues with each country. With regard to the cooperation menu, while presenting the medium- to long-term resource inputs from Japan (guidelines in terms of financial and human resources, outline of Japan’s technical and financial cooperation, etc.), the content of policy initiatives on the part of the partner country will also be discussed, and a comprehensive agreement will be reached in accordance with the needs. A platform for dialogue with relevant stakeholders from both Japan and developing countries will be established in each country. Through these efforts, Japan will work to realize the

<sup>1</sup> “Co-creation for common agenda initiative” Strategically important areas to be addressed through the co-creation for common agenda initiative and how to proceed with cooperation  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100568059.pdf>



Prime Minister Kishida holding a ceremony for the exchanges of notes related to Japan-Cambodia bilateral cooperation with Prime Minister Hun Manet of Cambodia in December (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

development cooperation goals set through co-creation with various stakeholders, and thereby seek to address challenges facing developing countries as well as its own challenges and economic growth.

In December, at the Japan-Cambodia Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Hun Manet of Cambodia, Prime Minister Kishida agreed on the list of cooperation items of the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative” to support the development of Cambodia’s digital economy and society,<sup>2</sup> and the two leaders agreed that they will continue to strengthen cooperation in the digital area.

Japan will continuously strive to improve the system in order to evolve ODA in line with the direction indicated in the Charter, including the promotion of the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative.”

<sup>2</sup> See MOFA’s website (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100597093.pdf>) for details on the list of cooperation items of the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative” in the digital area for Cambodia.





Prime Minister Kishida and other G7 leaders laid a wreath at the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims and offered a silent prayer.

In May 2023, the G7 Hiroshima Summit was held under Japan's Presidency. At the summit, Japan emphasized two perspectives in order to create an international community characterized by cooperation, not division and confrontation. The first is upholding the free and open international order based on the rule of law, and the second is strengthening outreach with international partners beyond the G7.

Regarding the second perspective, in particular, as the presence of emerging and developing countries called the "Global South" has increased, Japan considers that various issues facing the international society, including food, development, health, climate change and energy, and the environment, cannot be solved by the G7 alone. Therefore, Japan emphasized the significance of strengthening engagement with international partners, including countries called the Global South, and held discussions on these issues at the summit inviting eight countries <sup>3</sup> and seven international organizations. <sup>4</sup>

Prime Minister Kishida pointed out the marked increase in the estimated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

financing gap while the year 2023 marks the midpoint toward achieving the SDGs. He further stated that, to make steady progress for the achievement of the SDGs, Japan would advance its efforts toward the effective use of development cooperation and the mobilization of private capital, emphasizing Japan's stance of focusing its efforts to support vulnerable people based on the concept of human security in the new era. Furthermore, Prime Minister Kishida stated that the G7 launched the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) in 2022 to close the global infrastructure investment gap and would mobilize up to \$600 billion in public and private finance by 2027, reaffirming the G7's continued and strong commitment to this initiative. Regarding the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) reform, Prime Minister Kishida stated that it is necessary to strengthen responses to global issues while maintaining traditional development goals such as poverty reduction. In addition, he called on all creditor and debtor countries to comply with international rules and standards and to promote transparent and fair development finance. Moreover,

<sup>3</sup> Australia, Brazil, Comoros (African Union (AU) Presidency), Cook Islands (Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Chair), India (G20 Presidency), Indonesia (ASEAN Chair), Republic of Korea, and Viet Nam.

<sup>4</sup> The UN, International Energy Agency (IEA), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Prime Minister Kishida explained that Japan would provide over \$1.7 billion in humanitarian assistance in 2023 to address the worsening humanitarian crisis, and the G7's commitment to provide more than \$21 billion in humanitarian assistance.

In December, the G7 Leaders' video conference was held as a wrap-up of the G7 Japanese Presidency. The G7 Leaders' Statement issued after the meeting outlined the follow-up of the outcomes of the G7 Hiroshima Summit, including in the field of development.

### ■ Issues by Field

#### (Food)

With regard to food, the participating countries and organizations shared the view that it is of urgent importance to respond to immediate food crisis and establish resilient food security, amid the rapid deterioration of global food security since 2022, especially in developing countries, and the growing sense of crisis about the vulnerability of food systems. In line with these discussions, the leaders of the G7 and invited countries jointly issued the "Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security"<sup>5</sup> and agreed to take concrete actions and work together to respond to the global food crisis and build resilient, sustainable, and inclusive agriculture and food systems.

#### (Health)

Regarding health, the participating countries and organizations discussed and centered on the following three pillars: (i) developing and strengthening the global health architecture (GHA) for future public health emergencies; (ii) contributing to achieving more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage (UHC); and (iii) promoting health innovation to address various health challenges. Based on the lessons learned from COVID-19 and from the perspective of strengthening prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) for future pandemics, the G7 announced the "G7 Hiroshima Vision for Equitable Access to Medical Countermeasures (MCMs)."<sup>6</sup> Prime Minister Kishida presented the launch of the "MCM Delivery Partnership for equitable access (MCDP)" based on the principles set out in the "G7 Hiroshima Vision" and called on the participating countries and organizations to cooperate with the partnership. Furthermore, he announced that, with the goal of achieving UHC in mind, the G7 as a whole has committed to financial contributions totaling more than \$48 billion from the public and private sectors. Of this amount, Japan expressed its intention to make a contribution totaling more than \$7.5 billion from public and private sectors between 2022 and 2025, including a \$200 million pledge from the Government of Japan to the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund.



Prime Minister Kishida chairing Session 6 "Working Together to Address Multiple Crises"

<sup>5</sup> Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100506873.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> G7 Hiroshima Vision for Equitable Access to Medical Countermeasures <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100506811.pdf>

Furthermore, during the UN General Assembly High-level Week in September, Japan organized the “G7 Health Follow-up Side Event,” which was attended by Prime Minister Kishida, many countries including the G7, and related organizations. At the event, Japan announced the launch of an impact investment initiative to utilize private capital and knowledge for global health, the establishment of a new financing package that can promptly and effectively mobilize the funds necessary for PPR, and the promotion of MCDP.

(Gender)

On gender, the G7 leaders advocated the importance of adopting a continuous, holistic, and comprehensive approach to promoting gender equality by creating a “nexus” that bridges the political and security, economic and social spheres to promote gender mainstreaming, as stated in the G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué. They welcomed the “G7 Fact Sheet: Promoting Gender Mainstreaming through the Nexus Approach” prepared by the G7’s experts. The G7 leaders also stressed the importance of a nexus approach in foreign and sustainable development policy and in ODA. Additionally, they reaffirmed their commitment to make every effort to collectively increase the share of bilateral ODA among the G7 that advances gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment over the coming years.

(Climate Change/Energy/Environment)

Regarding climate and energy, the participating countries and organizations confirmed that it is necessary to holistically tackle challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and others with the aim of achieving a sustainable planet. Furthermore, they confirmed that the G7, Pacific Island countries, and countries in Africa and other regions should work together to address climate change, which is an urgent task all over the world that should be described as a “climate crisis.” They also agreed on the importance of pursuing the common goal of net zero in various pathways that maximally introduce utilizing renewable energy and energy-saving technologies in accordance with each country’s circumstances in order not to hinder economic growth, with the understanding of energy security, climate crisis and geopolitical risks in an integrated manner. In addition, Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan will support the energy transition of Asian countries without harming their economic growth through the realization of the concept of the “Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC).”<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, through concrete actions such as the formulation of

the Partnership for Resilient and Inclusive Supply-Chain Enhancement (RISE),<sup>8</sup> as laid out in the Clean Energy Economy Action Plan issued by the G7 leaders, the need to strengthen the supply chain for clean energy-related products and critical minerals that are essential for the clean energy transition was confirmed. The participating countries and organizations also agreed that mobilizing climate finance is extremely important, and that support is needed to ensure that countries and people vulnerable to climate change are not left behind.

Regarding environmental issues, the participating countries and organizations reaffirmed that they will strengthen cooperation for advancing concrete efforts on tackling plastic pollution, combatting marine pollution, conserving biodiversity, and addressing deforestation and forest degradation. For plastic pollution measures, they reaffirmed their commitment to ending plastic pollution, with the ambition to reduce additional plastic pollution to zero by 2040. With respect to biodiversity conservation, they welcomed the adoption of “the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)” at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022, and expressed their commitment to swift and full implementation of the GBF in order to achieve each of its goals and targets, as well as their commitment to promote sustainable forest management and use of wood.

(Ukraine)

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy also attended the G7 Hiroshima Summit in person, and a candid exchange of views took place regarding support for recovery and reconstruction in Ukraine. During the meeting, Prime Minister Kishida stated that public-private partnerships would be essential for the medium- to long-term recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. The G7 leaders issued the “G7 Leaders’ Statement on Ukraine,” reiterating their continued support for restoring and upgrading Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. The leaders of the G7 also expressed their readiness to support the sustainable and resilient recovery and green recovery of Ukraine including by sharing their experience, knowledge, and expertise regarding humanitarian de-mining and debris and pollution management. In addition, the G7 leaders welcomed efforts by the World Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), in accordance with their mandates, including the establishment of the Support for Ukraine’s Reconstruction and Economy (SURE) Trust

<sup>7</sup> This concept was proposed by Prime Minister Kishida in his Policy Speech in January 2022, with the aim of sharing the philosophy of promoting decarbonization with Asian countries and cooperating to advance the energy transition. AZEC was launched as a cooperation framework at the AZEC Ministerial Meeting in March 2023, and the first AZEC Leaders Meeting was held in December of the same year. AZEC partner countries are Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

<sup>8</sup> It was launched in October 2023 during the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings held in Marrakech, Morocco.





The G7 leaders and Ukrainian President attending Session 8 “Ukraine”

Fund at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and the launch of the “Ukraine Investment Platform” under the leadership of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

President Zelenskyy also participated at the opening of the G7 Leaders’ video conference held in December. Prime Minister Kishida demonstrated the G7’s determination to continue to unite and strongly promote sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine, in order to achieve a just and lasting peace. He also stated that Japan had decided to provide an additional assistance of approximately \$1 billion, including humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction assistance, and expressed that it is preparing to provide credit enhancement to the World Bank loan, which together with this additional assistance will comprise a total of \$4.5 billion. In addition, Prime Minister Kishida pointed out the importance of supporting Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction from a medium- to long-term perspective, and introduced that Japan would hold the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Reconstruction in February 2024 with the involvement of the private sector to demonstrate the importance of public-private partnership in providing support.

#### ■ Holding the Side-Event on the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)

Japan, together with the United States and the EU, hosted a side-event on PGII with attendance by the G7 leaders and representatives of the countries invited to the G7 Summit, participants from the private sector, and the President of the World Bank. At the side

event, the G7 expressed their intention to mobilize private capital for infrastructure investment in partner countries, in collaboration with a wide range of actors. Prime Minister Kishida explained the initiatives of the PGII and the projects that Japan has undertaken under the Partnership. He also stated that Japan is delivering infrastructure investment around the world including Asia, Africa and Oceania to mobilize more than \$65 billion in infrastructure assistance and private capital over five years and that Japan will work to further promote quality infrastructure investment. After the side-event, the fact sheet <sup>9</sup> was issued, which describes the progress of the Partnership to date.

The Factsheet highlights overseas investment and financing efforts, including Japan’s initiatives under PGII to establish the following financing facilities totaling \$4 billion: the “Facility for Accelerating Climate Change Resilient and Sustainable Society” (ACCESS), which finances up to \$1.5 billion to projects that contribute to climate-change mitigation (renewable energy, afforestation, EV projects, etc.) and adaptation (agriculture, water and sewage systems, etc.); the “Facility for Supporting Agricultural supply chain and Food security Enhancement” (SAFE), which provides financing of up to \$1 billion to projects that contribute to climate-change adaptation in the agricultural sector and increasing the incomes and agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers and other vulnerable groups; and the “Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion” (FAFI), which provides loans of up to \$1.5 billion to projects that contribute to improving access to finance for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), low-income groups, or women.



Private-Sector Investment Finance “Ninh Thuan Province Onshore Wind Power Project” in Viet Nam

<sup>9</sup> Factsheet on the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100506928.pdf>

# Part I

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



A Japanese engineer giving instructions to local workers on concrete pouring work at the construction site of the "Project for the Rehabilitation of Kizilkala-Bokhtar Section of Dushanbe-Bokhtar Road," a grant aid project in Tajikistan (Photo: JICA)

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

## 1

## Japan's Official Development Assistance in Terms of Disbursement

Japan's total ODA in 2022 <sup>1</sup> was approximately \$17,499.94 million (approximately ¥2,300 billion) according to the Grant Equivalent System (GE system) <sup>2</sup> introduced from 2018. As a result, among the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan ranked third <sup>3</sup> following the United States and Germany.

The breakdown is as follows. Bilateral ODA accounted for approximately 85.0% of overall disbursements, while ODA to multilateral institutions accounted for approximately 15.0%. Bilateral ODA is expected to contribute to strengthening Japan's relations with recipient countries. Meanwhile, ODA to multilateral institutions that have expertise and political neutrality enables Japan to 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 bilateral ODA by aid scheme, the funding provided as grant aid through the GE system totaled approximately \$3,257.86 million (¥428.2 billion), or approximately 18.6% of total ODA. Among these grants, grants through multilateral institutions, etc., accounted for approximately \$2,293.02 million (¥301.4 billion), or approximately 13.1% of total ODA.

Technical cooperation accounted for approximately \$2,362.31 million (¥310.5 billion), or approximately 13.5% of total ODA. With regard to government loans, etc., loan disbursements accounted for approximately \$14,020.44 million (¥1,842.7 billion), while the grant equivalent of government loans, etc., totaled approximately \$9,257.38 million (¥1,216.7 billion), or approximately 52.9% of total ODA.

Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements (including support for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas" <sup>4</sup>), in descending order by percentage of total disbursements (gross disbursements), are as follows. <sup>5</sup> (See Chart II-2 on page 14 and Chart IV on page 123 for details.)

- ◆ Asia: 56.0% (approximately \$10,997.36 million)
- ◆ Middle East and North Africa: 12.0% (approximately \$2,354.31 million)
- ◆ Sub-Saharan Africa: 8.5% (approximately \$1,677.34 million)
- ◆ Latin America and the Caribbean: 4.6% (approximately \$911.27 million)
- ◆ Oceania: 1.3% (approximately \$248.74 million)
- ◆ Europe: 4.2% (approximately \$819.47 million)
- ◆ Assistance covering multiple regions: 13.4% (approximately \$2,632.14 million)

<sup>1</sup> DAC members' final figures for ODA disbursements in 2023 are to be published at or after the end of 2024.

<sup>2</sup> The GE system records the amount of government loans, etc., equivalent to a grant as an actual ODA disbursement. The grant equivalent is calculated by applying the terms of the loan, such as the amount of loan provided, interest rate, and repayment period, to a formula. The more concessional the terms of the loan are, the larger the grant equivalent is. This system measures Japan's actual government loans, etc., more accurately compared to the net flow system, which was the standard used by the DAC until 2017. (The full amount of the loan is recorded; on the other hand, repaid amounts are counted as negative.)

<sup>3</sup> OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

<sup>4</sup> Graduated countries designated as "developing areas" refer to the countries and regions graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients that the Government of Japan designates as "developing areas" and continues to provide ODA to based on Article 3 (Purpose of the Agency) of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-JICA. In 2022, by disbursement basis, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, the Cook Islands, Kuwait, Oman, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay were under this category.

<sup>5</sup> Gross disbursement basis.



Chart II-1 Japan's ODA by Type (2022)

2022 (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	961.73	1,158.77	-17.0	1,263.99	1,271.92	-0.6
Debt relief	3.10	—	100.0	4.08	—	100.0
Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	2,293.02	2,100.17	9.2	3,013.68	2,305.26	30.7
Technical cooperation	2,362.31	2,423.12	-2.5	3,104.74	2,659.75	16.7
<b>Total grants (A)</b>	<b>5,620.17</b>	<b>5,682.06</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>7,386.49</b>	<b>6,236.93</b>	<b>18.4</b>
Government loans, etc. (Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement) (B)	14,020.44	12,126.28	15.6	18,426.82	13,310.45	38.4
(Amount recovered) (C)	5,515.65	6,186.02	-10.8	7,249.12	6,790.10	6.8
(Net disbursement) (D)=(B)-(C)	8,504.79	5,940.26	43.2	11,177.70	6,520.34	71.4
(Grant equivalent) (E)	9,257.38	8,035.91	15.2	12,166.82	8,820.64	37.9
<b>Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement basis) (A)+(B)</b>	<b>19,640.60</b>	<b>17,808.34</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>25,813.31</b>	<b>19,547.38</b>	<b>32.1</b>
<b>Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement basis) (A)+(D)</b>	<b>14,124.96</b>	<b>11,622.32</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>18,564.19</b>	<b>12,757.27</b>	<b>45.5</b>
<b>Total bilateral ODA (Grant equivalent basis) (A)+(E)</b>	<b>14,877.55</b>	<b>13,717.97</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>19,553.31</b>	<b>15,057.58</b>	<b>29.9</b>
Grants to multilateral institutions (F)	2,622.39	3,474.15	-24.5	3,446.56	3,813.41	-9.6
Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Amount disbursed) (G)	—	670.53	-100.0	—	736.01	-100.0
Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Grant equivalent) (H)	—	443.74	-100.0	—	487.08	-100.0
<b>Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Gross and net disbursement basis) (I)=(F)+(G)</b>	<b>2,622.39</b>	<b>4,144.68</b>	<b>-36.7</b>	<b>3,446.56</b>	<b>4,549.42</b>	<b>-24.2</b>
<b>Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions (Grant equivalent basis) (J)=(F)+(H)</b>	<b>2,622.39</b>	<b>3,917.90</b>	<b>-33.1</b>	<b>3,446.56</b>	<b>4,300.49</b>	<b>-19.9</b>
<b>Total ODA (Gross disbursement) (A)+(B)+(I)</b>	<b>22,262.99</b>	<b>21,953.02</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>29,259.87</b>	<b>24,096.80</b>	<b>21.4</b>
<b>Total ODA (Net disbursement) (A)+(D)+(I)</b>	<b>16,747.35</b>	<b>15,767.00</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>22,010.75</b>	<b>17,306.70</b>	<b>27.2</b>
<b>Total ODA (Grant equivalent) (A)+(E)+(J)</b>	<b>17,499.94</b>	<b>17,635.87</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>22,999.87</b>	<b>19,358.07</b>	<b>18.8</b>
Nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)	4,502.22	5,248.00	-14.2	591,719.70	576,048.00	2.7
% of GNI (Net disbursement basis)	0.37	0.30		0.37	0.30	
% of GNI (Grant equivalent basis)	0.39	0.34		0.39	0.34	

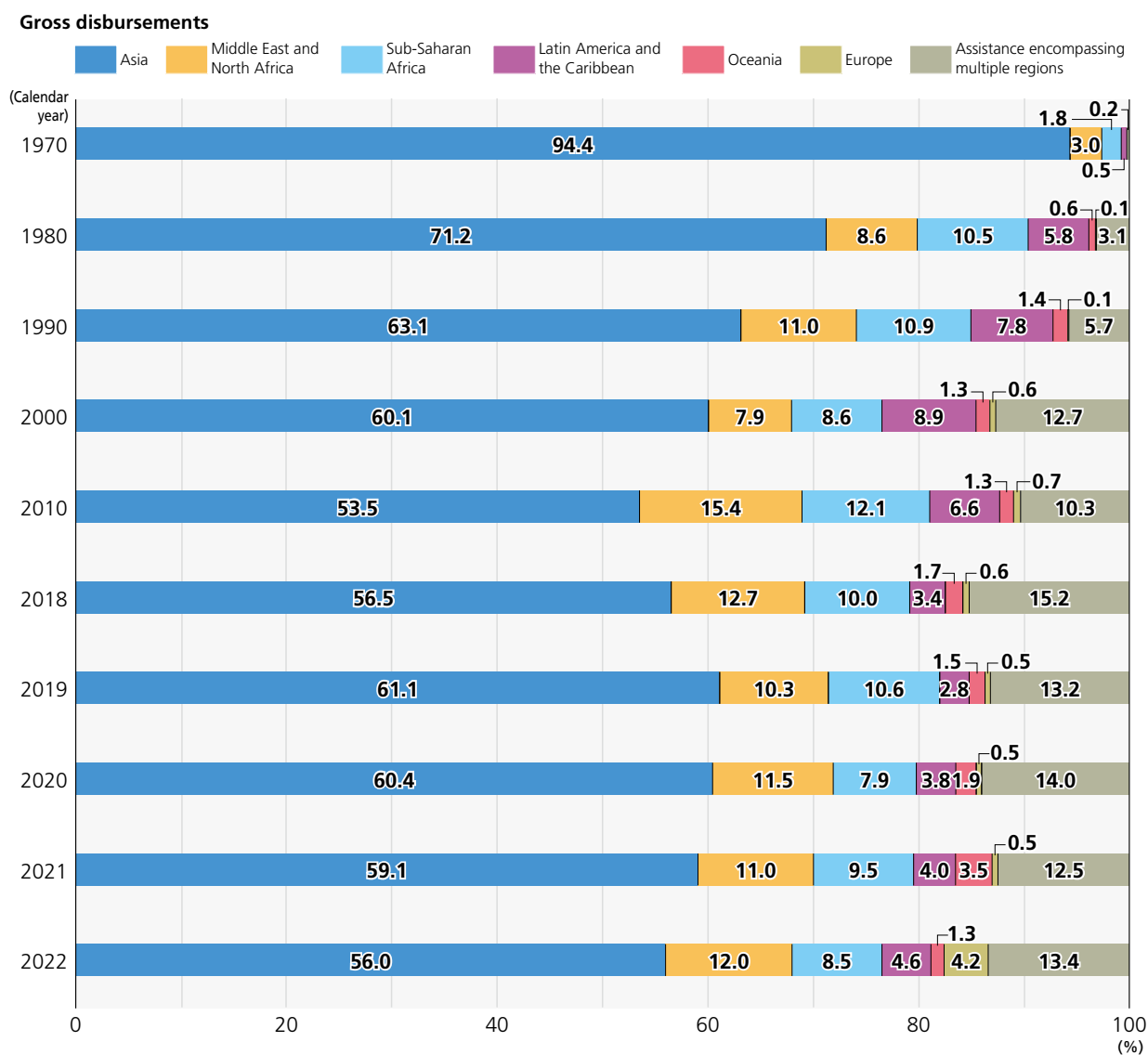
## Notes:

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- [-] indicates that no assistance was provided.
- Conversion rate: 2021 US\$1=¥109.7653, 2022 US\$1=¥131.4283 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC).
- "Grant aid" above does not mean the grant aid scheme of Japan.

- The above table excludes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas." For more information regarding disbursements that include assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas," see Reference Statistics: 2 (1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency (2022) (page 160).
- Graduated countries designated as "developing areas" refer to the countries and regions graduated from the DAC List of ODA Recipients that the Government of Japan designates as "developing areas" and continues to provide ODA to based on Article 3 (Purpose of the Agency) of the Act of the Incorporated Administrative Agency-JICA. In 2022, by disbursement basis, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei, Chile, the Cook Islands, Kuwait, Oman, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and Uruguay were under this category.
- "Debt relief" is debt cancellation on a commercial basis, and it does not include debt rescheduling.

Chart II-2

## Trends in Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region



Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

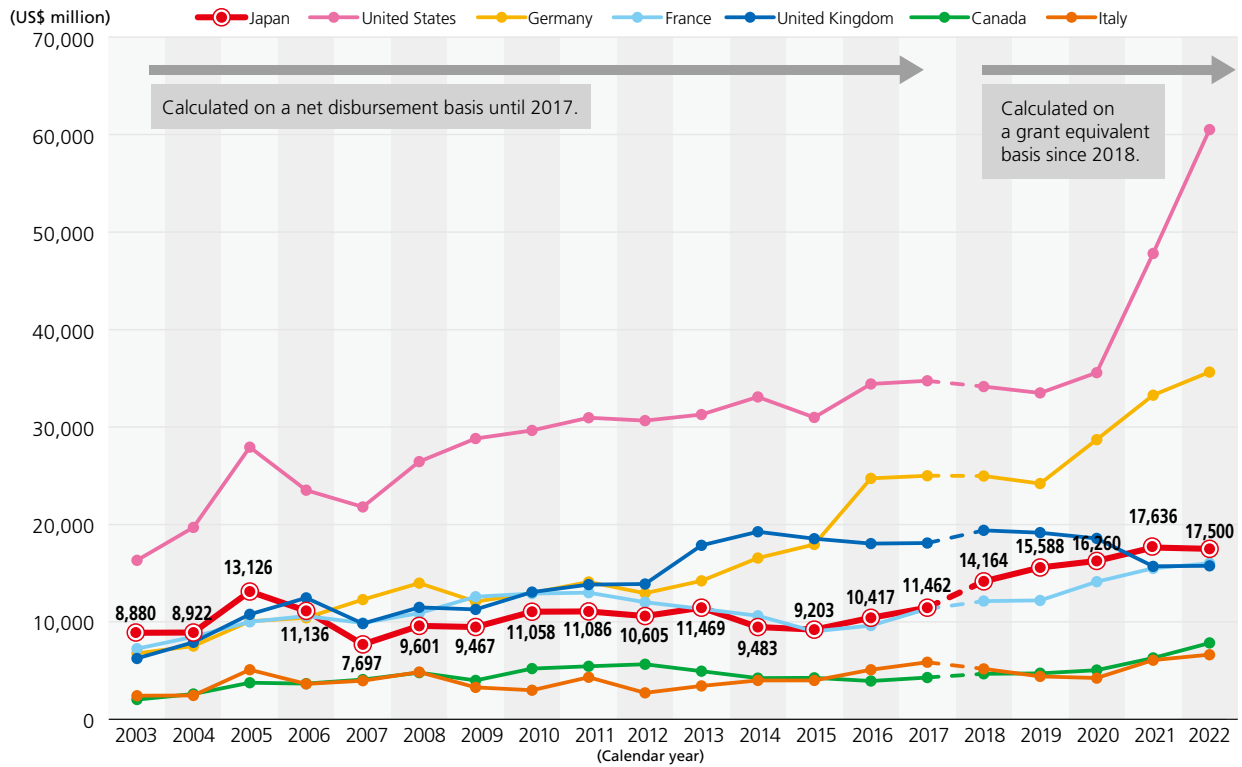
## Notes:

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

Chart II-3

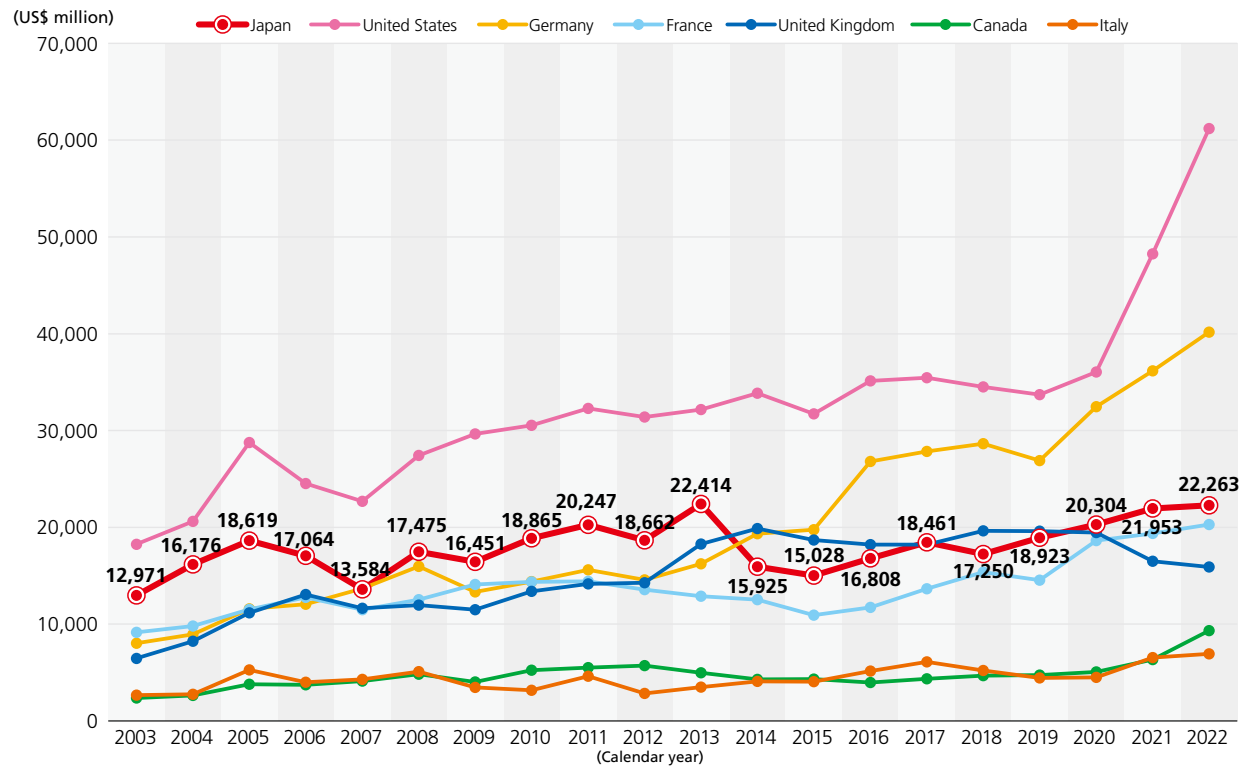
## Trends in the ODA of Major DAC Countries

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



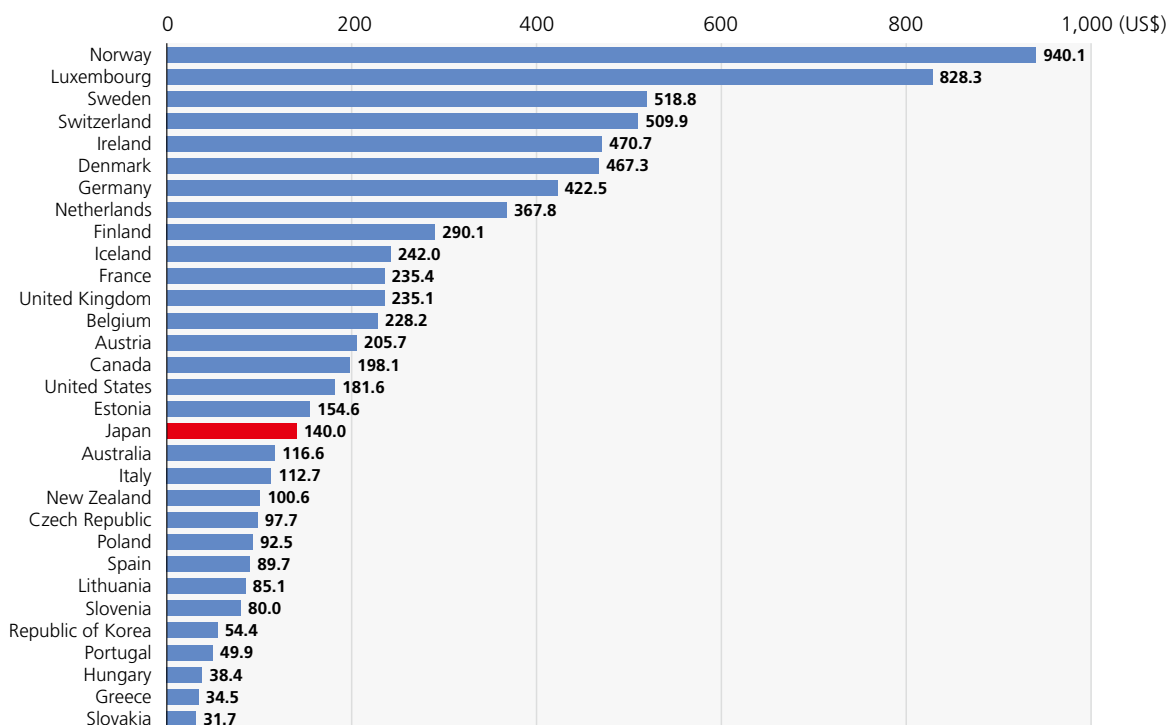
Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

## Gross Disbursements



Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

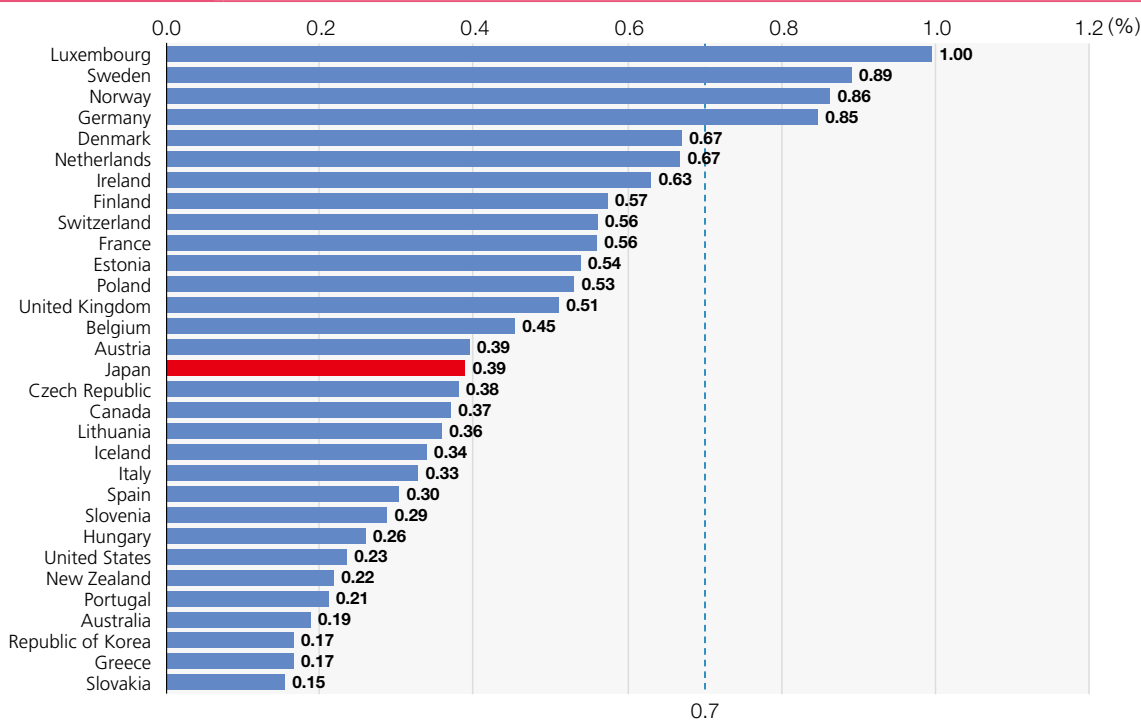


**Chart II-4**
**Per Capita ODA in DAC Countries (2022)**


Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

Notes:

- Grant equivalent basis.
- Lithuania became a member of the DAC in 2022, and Estonia in 2023.
- The OECD database contains Estonia's per capita ODA as a DAC member for 2022, and therefore this chart includes Estonia.

**Chart II-5**
**Ratio of ODA to GNI in DAC Countries (2022)**


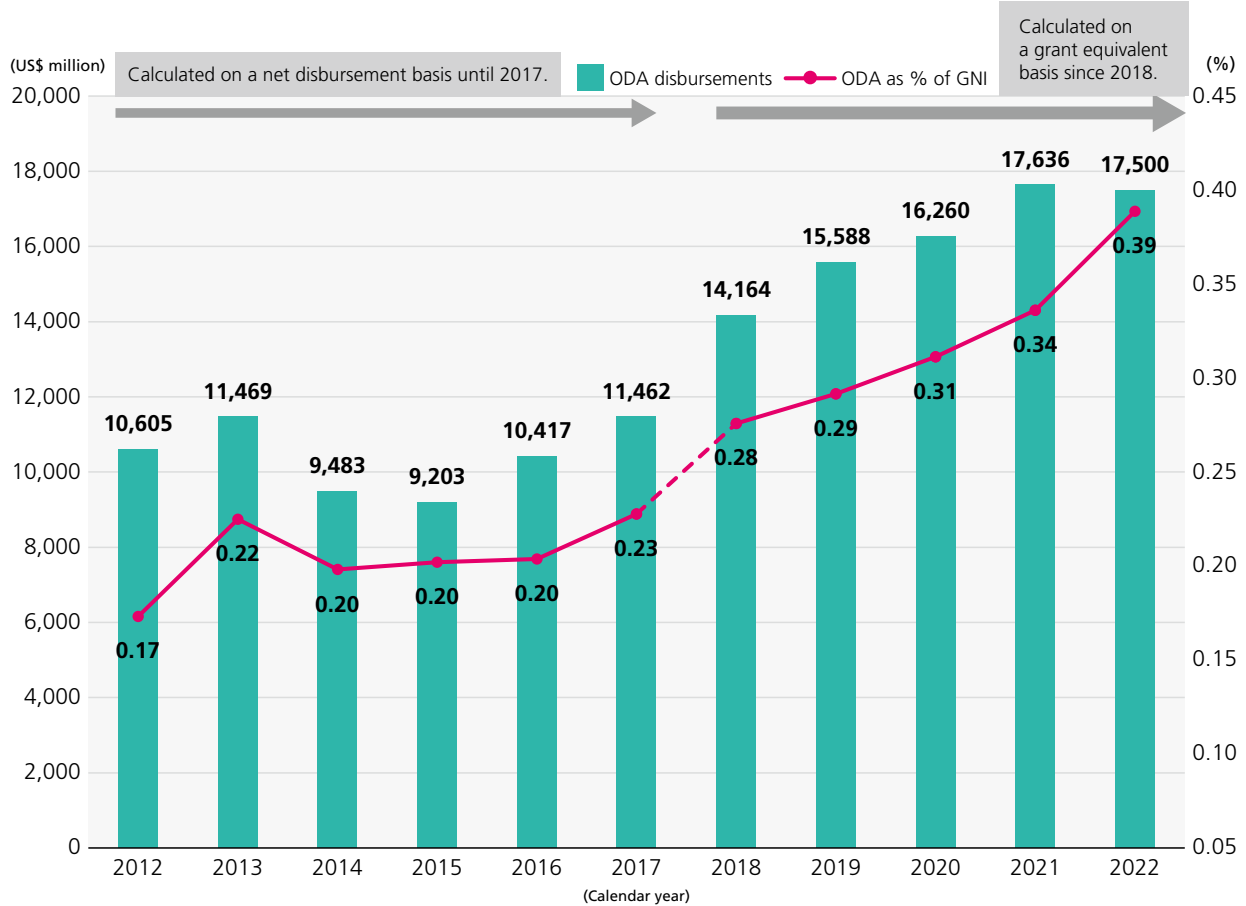
Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

Notes:

- Grant equivalent basis.
- In 1970, the UN General Assembly set a target of 0.7% of GNP (currently of GNI) for ODA.
- Lithuania became a member of the DAC in 2022, and Estonia in 2023.
- The OECD database contains Estonia's per capita ODA as a DAC member for 2022, and therefore this chart includes Estonia.

Chart II-6

## Trends in Japan's ODA and as Percentage of GNI



Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

Note:

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

## 2

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

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

DAC countries provide development cooperation under the rules set by the DAC. However, the content of ODA implemented by major donors varies by country. This section outlines the aid provided by DAC donors, focusing on the G7 countries, based on their disbursements in 2022.

### ■ Aid Disbursements by Major Donors

ODA provided by DAC countries in 2022 (calculated by GE system) amounted to approximately \$210,660 million. By country (GE system, percentage out of total ODA of DAC countries), the United States ranked first (approximately \$60,522 million, 28.7%), Germany second (approximately \$35,640 million, 16.9%), Japan third (approximately \$17,500 million, 8.3%), France fourth (approximately \$16,014 million, 7.6%), the United Kingdom fifth (approximately \$15,762 million, 7.5%), Canada sixth (approximately \$7,836 million, 3.7%), Italy seventh (approximately \$6,646 million, 3.2%), the Netherlands eighth (approximately \$6,470 million, 3.1%), and Sweden ninth (approximately \$5,458 million, 2.6%), with the G7 countries occupying the top spots. <sup>6</sup>

### ■ Sectors Aided by Major Donors

Disbursements in 2022 from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada were concentrated in the social infrastructure sectors, including education, health, and water supply and sewerage. The United States allocated more than 30% of total ODA to emergency response (humanitarian aid, etc.) and food aid. On the other hand, in the economic infrastructure sectors, such as roads, bridges, railroads, communications, and electric power, Japan has the highest allocation with 44.4% of its total ODA, followed by France with 28.8%. 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 II-7).

### ■ Regions Aided by Major Donors

Whereas Japan's ODA is primarily directed at the Asian region (approximately 56.0% of gross disbursements in 2022 [hereinafter the same]) (Chart II-2), Sub-Saharan Africa was the top recipient of aid from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy (24.2%, 12.4%, 30.9%, 14.1%, and 13.8%, respectively), and Europe was the top recipient of aid from Canada (32.0%). <sup>7</sup> In terms of the percentage of total aid disbursements from major DAC countries by region, the United States was the largest donor to the Middle East and North Africa (25.4%), Sub-Saharan Africa (38.6%), Latin America and the Caribbean (28.6%), and Europe (47.6%). Australia provided 51.9% of total ODA to Oceania. As these figures indicate, the regional priority of each donor is influenced by factors such as geographic proximity and historical background (Chart II-8).

<sup>6</sup> OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

<sup>7</sup> OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)



Chart II-7

## Bilateral ODA Distribution of Major DAC Countries by Sector (2022)

(Unit: %)

Sector \ Country	Japan	United States	United Kingdom	France	Germany	Italy	Canada	DAC Average
Social infrastructure (education, health, water and sewerage, etc.)	20.8	40.2	30.7	33.0	31.7	32.5	23.7	32.7
Economic infrastructure (transport, communications, electric power, etc.)	44.4	1.4	9.2	28.8	18.2	0.7	11.9	14.4
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	3.6	2.7	3.2	2.5	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.4
Manufacturing and other production sectors (mining, environmental protection, etc.)	16.1	1.8	13.8	12.1	17.6	6.1	3.9	9.2
Emergency response (humanitarian aid, etc.) and food aid	3.2	32.7	15.3	2.2	11.2	11.1	14.4	16.8
Program and other assistance (debt relief, administrative costs, etc.)	11.9	21.2	27.8	21.3	17.4	45.7	42.3	23.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

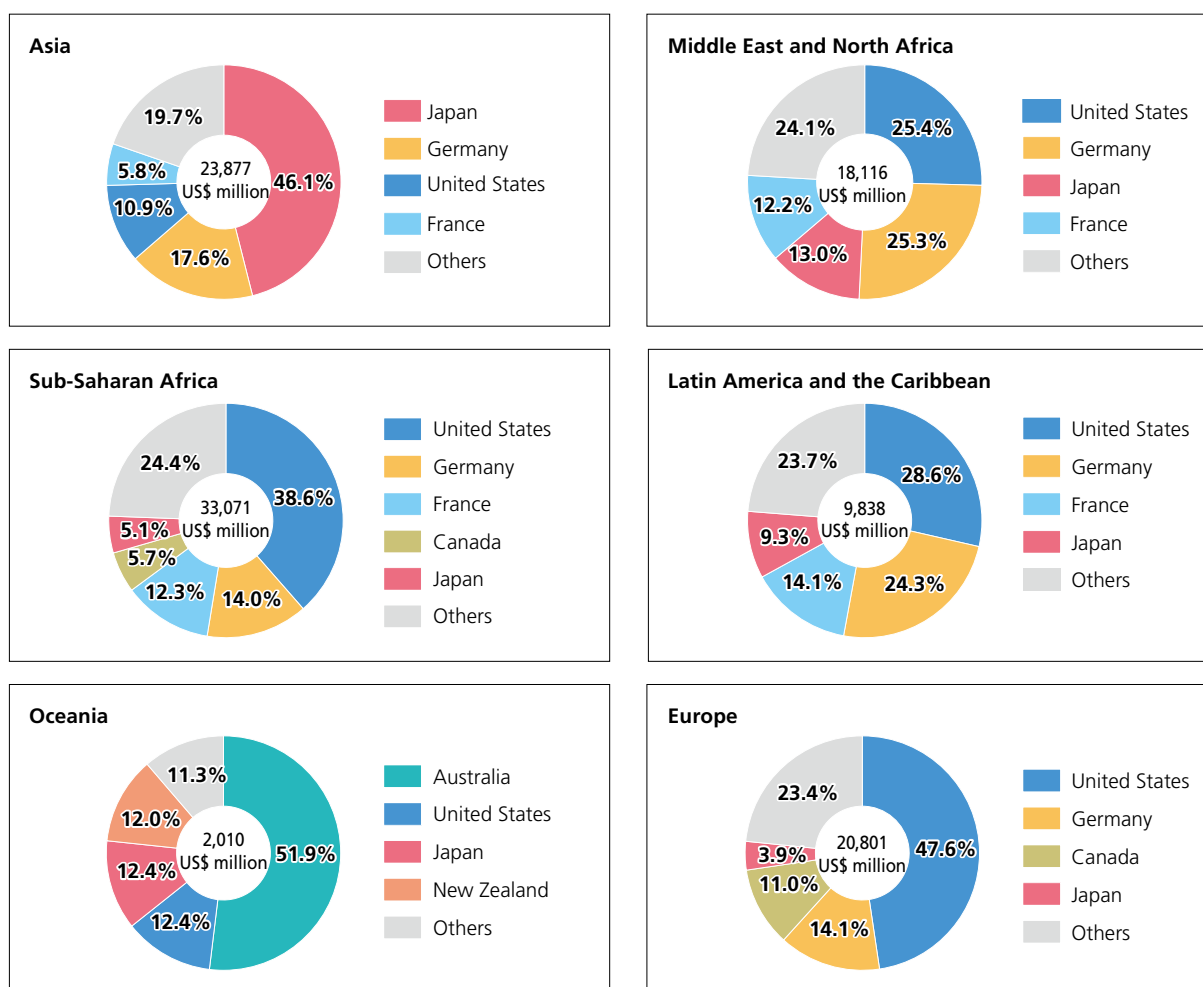
Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

Notes:

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

Chart II-8

## Major DAC Countries in ODA by Region (2022)



Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

Notes:

- Gross disbursement basis.
- Regional classifications are the same as the Chart IV (page 123).
- The figures in the graphs are the total ODA of DAC countries.

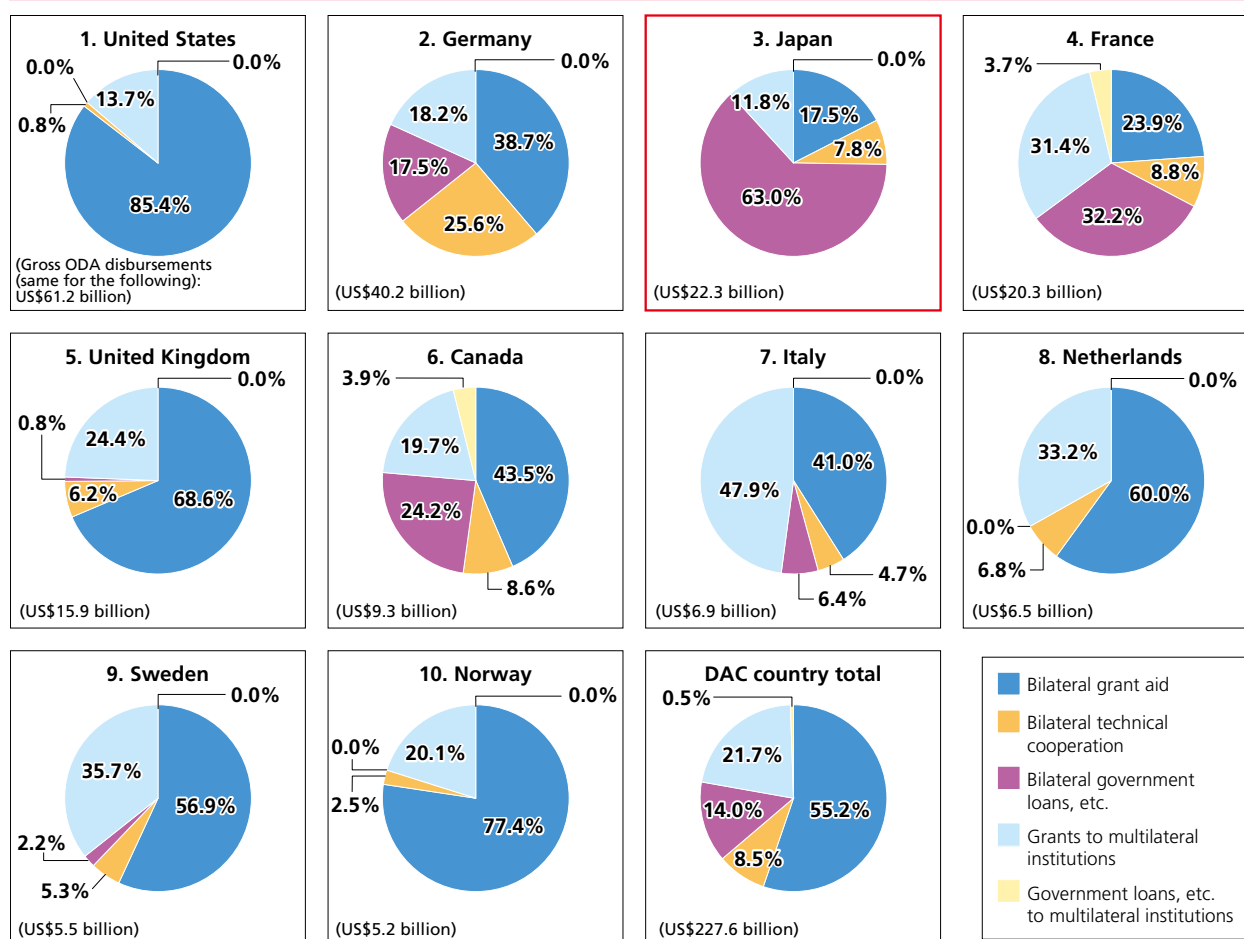
## ■ Disbursements by Type of Assistance

By type of assistance, approximately 85.5% of ODA provided by all DAC countries in 2022 were grants (bilateral grant aid<sup>8</sup> : approximately 55.2%; bilateral technical cooperation: approximately 8.5%; grants to multilateral institutions: approximately 21.7%), and approximately 14.5% were government loans, etc. (bilateral loans: approximately 14.0%; loans to multilateral institutions: approximately 0.5%). With the exception of Japan, France, and Canada, the top 10 major DAC countries implemented most of their ODA as grants (bilateral grant aid, bilateral technical cooperation, and grants to multilateral institutions) (Chart II-9).

Loan aid (e.g., yen 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 even after Japan's yen loan projects are completed. This approach is unique to Japan, which places importance on self-help efforts.

**Chart II-9 ODA of DAC Countries by Type of Assistance (2022)**



Source: OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)

Notes:

- Top 10 DAC countries by ODA for 2022 based on gross disbursements.
- Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100%.

<sup>8</sup> Bilateral grant aid refers to grant aid, debt relief, and grants through multilateral institutions, etc., on Chart II-1 on page 13.

## 3

## Increasing Development Cooperation to Developing Countries by Emerging Donors and the Private-Sector

Recent years have seen an increase in aid for developing countries provided by non-DAC emerging donors, such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Türkiye, South Africa, and private foundations, in addition to the DAC members. Although only a few non-DAC countries report to DAC, according to DAC statistics alone, the total amount of aid provided in 2022 was more than \$17.9 billion by non-DAC countries, more than \$231 billion of private funds by both DAC and non-DAC countries, and \$56.1 billion by NGOs.<sup>9</sup>

As the Political Declaration adopted at the SDG Summit 2023 in September 2023 states, “We are deeply concerned by the marked increase of the estimated SDG financing gap and recognize the urgency of providing predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries from all sources.” Thus funding by various actors must be directed to developing countries in order to achieve the SDGs.

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

Under these circumstances, the need for the transparency of development finance and other related matters continued to be discussed at various international forums in 2023, including the G7, G20, and the OECD. In the G7, which Japan assumed the Presidency of in 2023, the Chair’s Summary of the G7 Senior Development Officials (SDOs) meeting in February and the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Communiqué in April confirmed the determination to promote transparent and fair development finance practices and to work together to address the implementation gap of existing principles. Based on the discussions at these meetings, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit held in May, Prime Minister Kishida led the discussions as Chair of the G7 and called for the promotion of transparent and fair development finance. The G7 leaders confirmed this in the G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué, stating their “determination to promote transparent and fair development finance

and work together to address the gap in implementing existing principles such as debt transparency and sustainability, fair appraisal, selection, and lending practices for quality infrastructure investment.”

In the G20, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei attended the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting in June and highlighted the importance that all creditor and debtor countries promote transparent and fair development finance that complies with international rules and standards. The outcome document of this meeting stated that “the G20 reaffirms the importance of promoting development finance respecting the applicable finance related principles.” Based on the discussions at these meetings, at the G20 New Delhi Summit held in September, Prime Minister Kishida stated that more creditor and debtor countries would need to share the importance of transparent and fair development finance that complies with international rules and standards, and that the G20 should also promote such efforts.

In addition, the Communiqué adopted at the OECD’s DAC High Level Meeting in November called on all providers of development cooperation to adhere more closely to international standards and practices that improve transparency and accountability in development cooperation globally. The Communiqué also stated that borrower countries and official bilateral and private creditors would need to work together to prevent and resolve unsustainable debt situations.

Japan will continue to work with the international community to ensure that aid for developing countries, provided by emerging donors including China, is transparent and consistent with international standards and initiatives (see also Part III, Section 1 (4) on page 41, and Part V, Section 1 (2) on page 131).



Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei attending the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting

<sup>9</sup> OECD database (OECD.Stat) (December 2023)



# Chart II-10

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

(Applied to 2022-2023 disbursements)

Official Development Assistance (ODA) Recipient Countries					
Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (46 countries)	Other Low Income Countries (LICs) (per capita GNI ≤ US\$1,045)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (LMICs) (per capita GNI US\$1,046 - 4,095)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (UMICs) (per capita GNI US\$4,096–12,695)		
Afghanistan 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 Islands Somalia South Sudan Sudan Tanzania Timor-Leste Togo Tuvalu Uganda Yemen Zambia	Algeria Belize Bolivia Cabo Verde Cameroon Republic of the Congo Côte d'Ivoire Egypt El Salvador Eswatini Ghana Honduras India Indonesia Iran Kenya Kyrgyz Republic Federated States of Micronesia Mongolia Morocco Nicaragua Nigeria Pakistan [Palestine] Papua New Guinea Philippines Samoa Sri Lanka Tajikistan [Tokelau] Tunisia	Ukraine Uzbekistan Vanuatu Viet Nam Zimbabwe	Albania Argentina Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil China Columbia Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Dominican Republic Ecuador Equatorial Guinea Fiji Gabon Georgia Grenada Guatemala Guyana Iraq Jamaica Jordan Kazakhstan Kosovo Lebanon Libya Malaysia Maldives Marshall Islands	Mauritius Mexico Moldova Montenegro [Montserrat] Namibia Nauru Niue North Macedonia Palau Panama Paraguay Peru [Saint Helena] Saint Lucia Saint Vincent Serbia South Africa Suriname Thailand Tonga Türkiye Turkmenistan Venezuela [Wallis and Futuna]

Source: OECD website

Notes:

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

# Part III

## Measures for Each Priority Issue



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) conducting technical cooperation in Zambia identifying fault locations with a vehicle diagnostic device and explaining maintenance methods (Photo: JICA)

- 1 “Quality Growth” in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth ..... 24
- 2 Realizing Peaceful, Secure, and Stable Societies, and Maintenance and Strengthening of a Free and Open International Order Based on the Rule of Law ..... 45
- 3 Leading International Efforts to Addressing Increasingly Complex and Serious Global Issues ..... 61

## 1

**“Quality Growth” in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth****(1) Strengthening Socio-Economic Autonomy and Resilience**

Japan has sought to eradicate poverty, the most fundamental development challenge, by achieving economic growth and ensuring that it is “quality growth.”\* 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. However, as the global economy faces soaring energy and food prices and disruptions to supply chains, impacted by COVID-19 and Russia’s aggression against Ukraine,<sup>1</sup> it can sometimes be difficult to develop capacities or set in place an environment for promoting trade and attracting private investment, particularly in developing countries. Thus, support from the international community is required to strengthen the socio-economic autonomy and resilience of developing countries.

**Japan’s Efforts****■ Enhancing Resilience and Diversification of Supply Chains and Economic Diversification**

Japan provides cooperation to develop the trade and investment environment and economic infrastructure of developing countries on both structural and non-structural aspects in order to enhance their export capabilities and competitiveness. On structural aspects, Japan provides cooperation such as the development of transportation networks, including ports, roads, and bridges, which are important for developing countries to engage in trade, and the development of industrial infrastructure, including power plants and power grids. Japan also provides assistance on non-structural aspects including technical cooperation in trade-related areas, such as providing training to customs officials and intellectual property rights experts, to facilitate administrative procedures related to trade control and customs.

Strengthening the economic resilience and economic security of developing countries through such cooperation is an urgent issue in securing a virtuous cycle of growth that ensures quality growth of developing countries as well as the benefits for the Japanese economy. With this perspective in mind, at the G7

Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, Japan led discussions on strengthening economic resilience and economic security, including enhancing resilience of supply chain and critical infrastructure. Based on the discussions, the G7 leaders confirmed that they would closely coordinate in a holistic manner through the G7 framework, and as a comprehensive and concrete message on this agenda, issued the “G7 Leaders’ Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security.” In the Statement, the G7 leaders reaffirmed their strong will to “support particularly developing countries in building their resilience.” In addition, the G7 leaders announced the “G7 Clean Energy Economy Action Plan” regarding enhancing the resilience of the supply chain of critical minerals that is necessary for clean energy transition and renewable energy devices manufacturing, and concurred to “seek to deepen their cooperation with and support for partners around the world.”

As an example of infrastructure support contributing to enhancing supply chain resilience, port development and access toll road construction have been underway since 2018 at Patimban Port in West Java Province in Indonesia, under the cooperation of Japanese companies utilizing yen loans and technical cooperation. In December 2021, a local company invested in by a Japanese company began the full operation of an automobile terminal, and in April 2022, port expansion construction commenced and the construction of an access toll road also began. In this way, cooperation between the public and private sector has advanced to improve logistics and other



Bang Sue (currently Krung Thep Aphiwat) station, where a roof is being constructed under the “Mass Transit System Project in Bangkok (Red Line (III))” in Thailand (Photo: JICA)

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



matters (see “Featured Project” on page 40 for Japan’s infrastructure assistance in India, and Part III, Section 1 (3) on page 38 for Japan’s infrastructure assistance in other countries).

Japan conducts training for supply chain resilience, development of the sustainable and reliable logistics systems, and strengthening food value chains <sup>2</sup> in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and a total of 246 government officials and others participated in the training in FY2022. In Indonesia, since 2022, on six remote islands near the border, Japan has been providing technical cooperation to develop high-value-added marine products and off-island distribution to revitalize the economies of the remote islands, in addition to developing fishing facilities.

With regard to the assistance to promote trade with developing countries, Japan has implemented the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which applies lower tariff rates than the most-favored nation applied tariff rates to promote imports of developing countries into Japanese markets. Furthermore, for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs),\* Japan applies duty-free, quota-free access\* by introducing a special preferential treatment. Moreover, Japan actively promotes Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)\* and investment agreements. It is expected that these agreements will promote the facilitation of the business environment through trade and investment liberalization (reduction and elimination of tariffs and barriers to trade in services, etc.) and the protection of companies investing overseas and their investment, thereby encouraging Japanese companies to enter the markets in developing countries, and consequently, will contribute to economic growth in developing countries.

Discussions regarding “Aid for Trade (Aft)”\* have intensified in various international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as a means of further promoting support from developed countries, including Japan. Japan has contributed to organizations such as the International Trade Centre (ITC), which implements Aft, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of developing countries to engage in trade negotiations and participate in the global market, and raising their ability to implement the WTO agreements. In 2023, through the ITC, Japan provided a range of cooperation, including: support for African female entrepreneurs to utilize e-commerce in their businesses; technical assistance to expand vaccine production and distribution in Nigeria; capacity building support for governments, business support organizations (trade promotion organizations, chambers of commerce, etc.), and micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria and other West African countries;

and support for employment and business start-ups for displaced persons in Ukraine.

Regarding support for customs, Japan actively provides support mainly in ASEAN member states aimed at improving the capacity of customs through sharing Japan’s expertise and skills in the area. In Thailand, Japan has implemented the “Project for Enhancing the Human Resource Development Capacity of Customs Administration” since July 2021. With contributions to the World Customs Organization (WCO), Japan supports capacity building activities that help to facilitate international trade while securing safety through promoting the introduction of international standards adopted by WCO as well as of best practices by various different countries. Japan dispatches its customs officials as JICA long-term experts to six ASEAN countries <sup>3</sup> to provide support tailored to their needs. In Africa, as a JICA-WCO joint project, Japan implements a program (the Master Trainer Programme) to train instructors who will play leading roles in customs administrations in various countries. The program has been expanded to Pacific Island countries since 2021.



Assisting the applicants of the SME support program in Mozambique under the One Village, One Product Campaign (Photo: JICA)

Japan also 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.

### ■ Technical Assistance for the Improvement of Financial and Capital Market Systems

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

<sup>2</sup> See the glossary “Establishment of Food Value Chain” on page 32.

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

are properly established and that assistance is provided for the development of sound financial markets. Based on this concept, the Financial Services Agency of Japan conducted training programs on financial administration for emerging countries concerning regulatory and supervisory systems and initiatives in Japan's financial and capital markets. Specifically, in March 2023, "Seminars on Securities Supervision" and "Seminars on Insurance Supervision" were held in face-to-face and online formats, respectively, with a total of 10 participants from seven countries.

#### ■ 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 secure the necessary development funds in the form of tax revenue collection or others with their own capacities. This is known as "domestic resource mobilization," and its importance has been pointed out in light of insufficient development funding for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>\*</sup> Japan, together with the international organizations and other entities concerned, contributes to discussions regarding domestic resource mobilization and provides relevant support to developing countries. For example, Japan proactively provides technical cooperation to developing countries for improving their tax administration. In 2023, National Tax Agency (NTA) personnel served as JICA long-term experts in Laos, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, in areas including taxpayer management, international taxation, and tax collection. In addition, NTA conducts the International Seminar on Taxation (ISTAX) and training on international taxation for tax officials and others from developing countries. Moreover, the "Project for Enhancement of Property Valuation Capacity" has been underway in Thailand since November 2022. Japan also cooperates with IMF and ADBs in their technical assistance on taxation, including domestic resource mobilization, and provides support in terms of human resources, expertise, and financing, thereby contributing to strengthening capabilities in the field of taxation in developing countries in Asia, and beyond.

In order to support the sustainable development of developing countries, it is also important to implement the OECD/G20 BEPS Project,<sup>\*</sup> which works to prevent excessive tax planning measures by multinational enterprises. Implementing this project in a coordinated manner with various countries would enable developing countries to address the tax avoidance of multinational enterprises appropriately and to impose and collect tax properly in each country. At the same time, their tax systems and tax administration could be in line with

international standards by their implementation of the BEPS Project, which will lead to a stable, highly predictable, and attractive investment environment for companies and investors. At present, more than 140 jurisdictions, including developing countries, are participating in the framework that implements measures recommended under the BEPS Project. Under this framework, the Two-Pillar solution<sup>4</sup> was agreed upon in October 2021 to address the tax challenges arising from economic globalization and digitalization. Work is underway to formulate a multilateral convention and change domestic laws to quickly implement the agreement.

#### ■ Support for Industrial Human Resources Development and Employment Including Job Creation

In order to achieve quality growth, it is important to develop industrial human resources who will support industrial development. In developing countries where opportunities to receive education and training tend to be limited, Japan supports polytechnic and vocational training schools, that serve as core centers in each country to develop industrial human resources with diverse technologies and skills. In implementing this assistance, Japan utilizes its insight and know-how in cooperation with the private sector. Japan supports the capacity building of teachers and trainers, the reinforcement of the operational capacity of training schools, and the development and revision of curriculums and teaching materials, in order to further strengthen the linkages between education and employment (see "Featured Project" on page 98 for efforts in Pakistan).

Between 2016 and 2023, Japan, in collaboration with the industrial sector, provided comprehensive assistance including facility and equipment improvement to 19 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions through 13 projects in nine countries. In 2023, Japan contributed to skill development for women to improve their livelihoods through 13 projects in 20 countries and regions. In the same year, Japan also contributed to the provision of agricultural and entrepreneurship training to 500 people as well as agricultural inputs and startup capital to 500 households in Zambia.

Regarding the Asian region, the Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative was released in September 2023. Japan announced in the Initiative that it would provide capacity building projects for 5,000 individuals over the next three years. Japan will cooperate in developing human resources who will play a key role in ASEAN countries through various projects, such as group and region-focused training and the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS).

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<sup>4</sup> Pillar One is a revision of international taxation principles to allow the taxation of multinational enterprises with large scale and high profit levels in market countries regardless of their physical presence. Pillar Two is the introduction of a global minimum tax from the perspective of limiting the possibility of a race to the bottom on corporate income tax rates.

# MASTER TECHNIQUES

from Japan  
to the World

Public  
nomination

1

## A Company from Gifu, the Birthplace of Japanese Modern Beekeeping, Contributing to Increasing Honey Yields in Tanzania



Tanzania in East Africa is an agricultural country where approximately 70% of the population is engaged in agriculture. However, the growth rate of the agricultural sector remains low compared with other sectors, and the disparity between urban and rural areas as well as employment among the younger generation are challenges. The beekeeping industry produces approximately 30,000 tons of honey annually, making the country the second-largest producer in Africa, although the actual yield is reportedly much lower than its potential when considering the climate and abundance of nectar sources (plants from which bees collect nectar to make honey). One of the reasons for this is the use of traditional beekeeping technology by smallholder farmers.

Therefore, Nissin Honey Co., Ltd., which is based in Gifu Prefecture, known as the birthplace of Japanese modern beekeeping, and is engaged in manufacturing and importing honey products, utilizes JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Survey to introduce modern beekeeping in Tanzania.

Japan depends on imports for most of its honey consumption. Nissin Honey, which imports honey mainly from South America, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia, began considering Tanzania as an option for diversifying the company's import sources. Mr. KISHINO Hayato, CEO and President of Nissin Honey explains the reason for their choice: "We estimated that, by introducing Japanese modern beekeeping technology, we would be able to increase the honey yield in Tanzania, where honey is collected using traditional methods."

"This project was a new attempt for our company, as it was about not only importing honey, but also developing local human resources and improving production capacity. The issues we addressed first were the introduction of Japanese-style beehive boxes and the aggressive nature of the local bees," says Mr. Kishino, looking back on the early days of the project.

Traditional beekeeping in Tanzania uses beehive boxes that are nearly four times the size of those in Japan and waits for bees to arrive at a fixed location. With this method, it is



A staff member of Nissin Honey Co., Ltd. (on the right) discussing with local beekeeping stakeholders (Photo: Nissin Honey Co., Ltd.)

difficult to move the hives to areas with flowers, and it takes several months to collect enough honey, which reduces its quality. To tackle this issue, Nissin Honey starts this project by introducing compact and mobile Japanese-style beehive boxes. In order to ensure a stable supply of beehive boxes, Nissin Honey plans to set up a system to manufacture and distribute beehive boxes using local wood, in cooperation with a company in Miyazaki Prefecture in Japan. Mr. Kishino says, "The introduction of compact beehive boxes enables the local people to move the hives to areas with flowers and collect honey efficiently. In addition, smaller beehive boxes are easier for women to handle, which encourages women's participation," as the explanation of the benefits of Japanese-style beehives.

Regarding another challenge of the aggressive nature of African honeybees, it poses a high risk of beekeepers being stung while working. Therefore, Nissin Honey, with the cooperation of JICA, works with local universities and research institutes to increase the number of bees suitable for beekeeping by placing honeybees in an environment where they do not need to be aggressive, repeating crossbreeding for three generations, and selecting less aggressive bees.

According to Nissin Honey, it has been confirmed that the yield can be increased to nearly four times that of traditional beekeeping by incorporating modern beekeeping technology. Local beekeepers, who were initially skeptical about the introduction of new technology, have come to have high expectations for the introduction of Japanese beekeeping technology. Regarding the company's future prospects in Tanzania, Mr. Kishino says, "Our goal is to further increase production and stabilize the business by 2026, and we have to work not only on human resources development of beekeepers for increasing the production, but also on quality issues, including taste and color. We aim to resolve these issues and deliver honey from Tanzania to Japanese dining tables while increasing and stabilizing the income of Tanzanian beekeepers."



Checking that the bees have adapted themselves to the beekeeping equipment brought in from Japan (Photo: Nissin Honey Co., Ltd.)

Part  
III

1 "Quality Growth" in the New Era and Poverty Eradication through such Growth





An international conference in the field of electrical and electronic engineering held in Bangkok, Thailand, under “ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project Phase 4” (Photo: JICA)

The “Innovative Asia” Initiative, which has been implemented since FY2017, also provides excellent science and technology students from developing countries in Asia with opportunities to study abroad and intern at companies in Japan to promote the circulation of highly-skilled human resources between Japan and other Asian countries.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) conducts training both in Japan and in targeted countries of Cambodia, Indonesia, and Viet Nam. The training<sup>5</sup> is designed to transfer the know-how of Japan’s skills evaluation system accumulated in the government and the private sector (Japan’s National Trade Skill Test and Certification and skills competitions) to those in targeted countries in order to develop and secure a quality workforce. In FY2022, a total of 87 people from 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 the African region, Japan supports the development of industrial human resources for the sustainable growth of each individual, through the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth)<sup>6</sup> and the Kaizen<sup>7</sup> Initiative, which are driven by industry-academia-government collaboration, as well as technical assistance in partnership with international organizations (see Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 139 and Part V, Section 2 (2) A on page 143 for the ABE Initiative).

Japan also provides assistance in the area of labor issues. Deterioration in the socio-economic situation usually has the greatest impact on socially vulnerable people, including youth and women. In order to create stable employment, each country needs to prepare for risks by building social safety nets. Moreover, there is a strong international need for support and response to realize decent work for all workers (set out in Goal 8 of the SDGs). Japan provides development cooperation mainly in the Asian region to improve standards of occupational safety and health and social insurance systems, through contributions to the ILO, among others. Japan also contributes to employment support for youth in Africa<sup>8</sup> as efforts to realize decent work.



Local company staff collecting data to be used in a proof-of-concept for credit evaluation scoring system to improve access to financial institutions for smallholder farmers in Doma, Nasarawa State, Nigeria (Photo: Zowasel)

## ■ Securing Access to Resources and Energy

The number of people without access to electricity is estimated at approximately 675 million in the world as of 2021.<sup>9</sup> The lack of electricity, gas, and other energy supplies also leads to many issues, such as delays in industrial development, loss of employment opportunities, and a further increase in the poverty rate. The global energy demand is expected to increase further in Asia and other parts of emerging and developing countries. At the same time, climate action is an urgent task. Under such circumstances, it is important to ensure energy security, while enhancing decarbonization to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050, through diversification of energy suppliers and energy sources.

Japan works on the provision of support that enables modern energy supply and stable supply of electricity for industrial development, in order to promote sustainable development in developing countries. Japan also provides support for the establishment of environmentally friendly infrastructure, such as energy-saving equipment and power generation facilities

<sup>5</sup> The types of training include “Training for people in charge of writing test standards and test questions, etc.,” and “Training for people in charge of testing and grading, etc.” The number of participants above is the total for all types of training.

<sup>6</sup> See the glossary on page 145.

<sup>7</sup> 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 the 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.”

<sup>8</sup> Ethiopia, Gambia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Sudan.

<sup>9</sup> IEA “Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report, 2023” <https://www.iea.org/reports/tracking-sdg7-the-energy-progress-report-2023>



Demonstrating the installation of equipment (protective pipes) provided under the “Project for Capacity Development of Power Distribution” in Nigeria (Photo: SUEZAWA Ruriko)

that utilize renewable energies (hydropower, solar photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind power, geothermal power, etc.) (see Part III, Section 3 (1) on page 61 for Japan’s efforts to address climate change).

In the Pacific Islands region, located across expansive ocean areas with vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, Japan assists in mainstreaming grid-connected type renewable energy from the perspective of energy security and the realization of low-carbon or decarbonized societies. In the Dominican Republic, which highly relies on imported fossil fuels for its electricity supply, Japan supports LED light use for streetlights on public roads across the country through yen loans in order to help improve the energy efficiency of the country. These efforts are expected to contribute to promoting energy conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the public sector of the country.

At the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8),<sup>10</sup> held in August 2022, the “Green Growth Initiative with Africa (GGA)” was launched with the aim of maximizing Japan’s cooperation through three concepts, namely ownership and co-creation, flexible finance mobilization, and collaboration with diverse partners. As part of the contribution based on GGA, Japan announced its support for private investment in renewable energy projects, expansion of geothermal power generation, and cooperation in the field of mineral resources such as copper and rare metals that are indispensable for realizing a decarbonized society. As support for African countries to appropriately preserve and utilize natural resources and ecosystems, and to realize sustainable growth (green growth), Japan helps in the operation and maintenance of the Africa Power Pool (interconnected power grid among several



Management training being conducted as part of the “Project for Capacity Strengthening for Geothermal Steam Supply and Management” in Kenya (Photo: JICA)

countries), power distribution networks, and grid stabilization, among other efforts.

In Kenya, through the assistance to develop the Olkaria Geothermal Power Plants, Japan contributes to increasing and stabilizing power supply, and Japanese companies are responsible for part of the project implementation. In 2022, the ceremony for the official commissioning of the Olkaria I Additional Unit 6 and V Geothermal Power Plant was held. With the inauguration of the plants, Kenya has become sixth in the world in terms of installed capacity of geothermal power.

### ■ Initiatives toward Food Security and Nutrition

According to the report of “the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023,”<sup>11</sup> between 691 and 783 million people were estimated to be in hunger in 2022. This number increased by approximately 122 million compared to 2019, before the global spread of COVID-19. The report also predicts that approximately 600 million people will still face hunger in 2030. The report also states that “We have no option but to redouble our efforts to transform agrifood systems and leverage them towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) ‘Good Health and Well-Being’ targets,” recommending that overcoming the challenges will require policy interventions, actions, and investments. Japan provides food assistance<sup>12</sup> based on requests from developing countries facing food shortages. In FY2023, Japan contributed a total of ¥6.15 billion to 21 countries/regions as a grant mainly with the provision of Japan’s Government-Owned Rice.

In addition to bilateral support, Japan is engaged in efforts to provide food assistance in cooperation with international organizations. For example, through the World Food Programme (WFP), Japan supports school meal programs to improve access to education, as well as initiatives to encourage people to participate in the

<sup>10</sup> See the glossary “Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)” on page 121.

<sup>11</sup> A report jointly prepared and published by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. <https://www.wfp.org/publications/state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-sofi-report-2023>

<sup>12</sup> Grant aid that provides funds for the procurement of necessary products and services to developing countries making efforts for socio-economic development, including poverty reduction, in order to implement food aid provided in accordance with the Food Assistance Convention.





A JOCV engaging in cooperation activities in Benin, communicating daily with smallholder farmers in the local community to help them increase their income (Photo: JICA)

development of agricultural land and social infrastructure through the distribution of food. In August 2023, Japan decided to provide grant aid of ¥300 million through WFP to Guinea, which has been affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine and had experienced food supply strains and sharp price increases, to provide Japan's Government-Owned Rice. In 2022, WFP conducted activities including the distribution of approximately 4.8 million tons of food, and food assistance based on cash transfers to approximately 160 million people in more than 120 countries and regions around the world. Japan contributed a total of approximately \$265.12 million to the WFP projects in 2022.

Japan supports the improvement of nutrition in developing countries through contributions to the multilateral development banks (MDBs).<sup>\*</sup> In 2021, Japan announced additional contributions totaling \$70 million to the World Bank's Global Financing Facility (GFF)<sup>\*</sup> and the Japan Trust Fund for Scaling Up Nutrition.<sup>\*</sup> From the perspective of mainstreaming nutrition in development policy, Japan hosted the 20th replenishment final meeting of the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group in December 2021, and included in its agenda the strengthening of human capital, including improving nutrition status, as a priority area. In December 2021, Japan hosted the "Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021," during which Prime Minister Kishida announced more than ¥300 billion in nutrition-related financial contributions over three years. In 2022, Japan contributed ¥160.682 billion (provisional).

In order to achieve food security and improved nutrition, Japan is proactively addressing food issues as a global challenge emphasizing cooperation for the promotion of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, including the establishment of food value chains,<sup>\*</sup> in addition to food assistance.

In developing countries, low purchase prices for agricultural products are one of the factors that prevent many farmers from escaping poverty. Japan promotes the establishment of food value chains for developing



Smallholder farmers in Tursunzoda, Tajikistan, produce and harvest strawberries as a marketable crop to increase their income as part of the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) project (Photo: JICA)

countries in cooperation with private companies, such as by formulating the "Plan to Promote the Establishment of Global Food Value Chain," which defines priority initiatives to establish a food value chain in each country and region. In 2023, Japan organized bilateral policy dialogues with Thailand.

Japan places emphasis on agriculture as an essential industry that plays an important role in Africa's economic growth, and actively contributes to its development. Specifically, under the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)<sup>\*</sup> Phase 2, Japan proceeds with efforts to improve the quantity and quality of rice production applying the RICE approach.<sup>\*</sup> The approach includes support for the development of irrigation facilities, research on superior rice varieties including New Rice for Africa (NERICA),<sup>\*</sup> a hybrid of Asian and African rice varieties, and dissemination of production technology. CARD targets have expanded to 32 countries.

In TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan set the goal to provide human resources development for 150,000 people and to realize a doubling of rice production (56 million tons) by 2030 through CARD.

In order to transform agriculture from self-sufficient to "income generating" activities, Japan provides assistance through the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) approach.<sup>\*</sup> The SHEP approach refers to an effort to assist smallholder farmers producing fruits and vegetables, aimed at increasing their income by causing a mindset shift to "growing to sell" and through improvements to farm management and cultivation skills. Japan has so far provided training and dispatched experts to 29 countries in Africa to support the transformation from the existing subsistence agricultural model. Japan expressed at TICAD 8 that it would support 66,000 people's shift to agriculture for "earning" through the SHEP approach. Japan also stated that it would provide \$300 million through co-financing to support the strengthening of food production in coordination with the African Development Bank's African Emergency Food Production Facility.

In order to contribute to the improvement of food security through the enhancement of transparency in international agricultural markets, Japan has supported



the “Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)”<sup>13</sup> through providing data and financial resources. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, it was confirmed that the efforts for AMIS would be strengthened.

Japan provides assistance in the agricultural sector through international organizations such as FAO, IFAD, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and WFP in order to strengthen developing countries’ own foundations for food production. For example, Japan, in partnership with FAO, provides 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. Japan also supports research and development aimed at both increasing productivity and sustainability, including variety development, the introduction of digital agricultural technologies, and other efforts conducted by CGIAR, which is comprised of 15 international agricultural research institutions. In March 2023, Japan decided to provide food-related assistance totaling \$50 million to Asia, the Middle East,

and Africa as a response to the deterioration of global food security, which has been exacerbated by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine. Additionally, in April 2023, Japan launched the “Enhanced Linkages between Private Sector and Small-scale Producers (ELPS)” initiative to promote developed countries’ support for development of sustainable and resilient food systems in developing countries. This initiative was also welcomed by the G7 countries at the G7 Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting in Miyazaki.

In addition to the above-mentioned assistance in the agricultural sector, Japan contributes to improving animal health through the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and FAO. For example, Japan participates in the “Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs),” established by WOAH and FAO in response to transboundary animal diseases such as Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), and African Swine Fever (ASF), supporting the initiatives of international organizations in the field of animal health mainly for the Asia-Pacific region.



## Glossary

### Quality growth

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

### 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 \$1,018 or less on average between 2017 and 2019. As of 2022, there are 46 eligible countries: 9 in Asia, 33 in Africa, 1 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 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.

### Aid for Trade (Aft)

Aft is an 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. The WTO emphasizes the significance of promoting the development of developing countries through their participation in the multilateral free trading system.

### One Village, One Product Campaign

The One Village, One Product Campaign is a globally prevailing initiative launched in Oita Prefecture, Japan in 1979. The initiative 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.

<sup>13</sup> A system launched in 2011 by the G20 as a measure to counter the wild fluctuations of food prices. Various countries, corporations, and international organizations utilize the system to share information on the agricultural and food market (such as production volumes and prices) in a timely, accurate, and transparent manner.

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

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

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

Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) refers to the problem where multinational enterprises exploit gaps and loopholes in international tax systems, including tax treaties, and undertake excessive tax planning measures to intentionally reduce their tax burden in spite of their taxable economic activities. In order to address this problem, the BEPS Project was launched in June 2012 by the OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs, with the aim of ensuring fair competition, bringing international taxation rules in line with the realities of the global economy and enterprise behavior, and reviewing international taxation rules as a whole in order to strengthen transparency of governments and multinational enterprises.

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

A general 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 assistance worldwide, and four regional development financial institutions that provide support to their respective regions, namely, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

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

An initiative launched in 2015 by the World Bank, the UN, and others to expand financial resources for the maternal and child health field. The GFF provides technical assistance for the formulation of maternal and child health policies, including those to improve the nutritional status of women and children, and for the enhancement of implementation capacity. The GFF aims to mobilize funds effectively by providing support to formulate plans with the pre-condition that low-interest loans from the World Bank and other sources are used to implement said plans.

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

A trust fund established in 2009 to scale up nutrition investments in high undernutrition-burden countries and to strengthen in-country capacity to implement nutrition programs. It provides technical assistance to high undernutrition-burden countries to formulate policies for improving nutrition and to improve their implementation capabilities, thereby boosting nutrition investments by the countries concerned and the World Bank.

### **Establishment of Food Value Chain**

An activity in which various stakeholders cooperate, including the farmers, suppliers of farming materials and implements, such as seeds, fertilizers, and farming machinery, processing companies of agricultural produce, transportation and distribution companies, and retailers, aiming at creating a chain that can enhance the added value of agricultural products from the stages of production, to manufacturing and processing, distribution, and consumption. For example, it includes improving the quality of agricultural produce, developing attractive new products, reducing transportation costs, increasing sales opportunities by expanding the sales network, and other activities.

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

An initiative to support self-help efforts to expand rice production in Africa, as well as a donor advisory group to work in partnership with interested rice-producing countries. It was launched by Japan in collaboration with an international NGO, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), at TICAD IV in 2008, and Japan also launched the CARD Phase 2 at TICAD 7 in 2019.

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

An initiative adopted under CARD Phase 2 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 establishing agricultural management systems to improve the household incomes and livelihoods of farmers.

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

A general term for rice developed by the CGIAR Africa Rice Center through the hybridization of high-yield Asian rice with weed, disease, and insect pest resistant African rice. Compared to conventional rice, NERICA are characterized by (1) a higher yield, (2) a shorter growing period, which means that they can grow in the short rainy season and avoid the risk of drought, (3) higher resistance to dryness (drought) and disease, and can withstand the hot, dry climate unique to Africa. Since 1996, Japan has been supporting the development and dissemination of varieties of NERICA by dispatching researchers and experts from the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and JICA.

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

An approach started by Japan in Kenya in 2006 to assist smallholder farmers producing fruits, vegetables, and other produce. It aims to increase their income through converting farmers' mindset from “grow and sell” to “grow to sell” and by improving farm management and cultivation skills. Japan promotes the activities integrating the SHEP approach around the world with a focus on Africa.

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

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

### Japan’s Efforts

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

The spread of COVID-19 has led to a period of disruption in the movement of people and goods, resulting in the digitalization and onlineization of socio-economic activities. Digital transformation (DX)<sup>14</sup> is directly linked to all development challenges and is the key to achieving “quality growth.”

In order to realize an inclusive and prosperous society in which developing countries and their people can benefit from digitalization in a safe, fair, and stable manner, Japan has identified the promotion of digitalization and DX as one of the areas in which Japan will strategically implement ODA through the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative” (see Part I, Section 1, page 4 and Part V, Section 2 (2) C. on page 145 for details on the “Co-creation for common agenda initiative”). Furthermore, through collaboration with various actors, including international organizations and private companies, Japan supports the development of legal and judicial systems, human resources development, and the development of information and communication environments as part of the establishment of foundations for promoting digitalization based on the concept of “Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT),”<sup>15</sup> which Japan advocates. In doing



Test driving autonomous agricultural machinery as part of an agricultural pilot project in cooperation with Yanmar Agribusiness Co., Ltd. that utilizes high-precision positioning data in Sara Buri Province, Thailand (Photo: JICA)

so, Japan promotes cooperation aimed at solving issues through the promotion of digitalization and enhancing development outcomes.

Areas where development benefits are expected to increase through DX include smart agriculture, remote medical care, smart cities, mobile banking, and the digitalization of government administration. As an example of Japan’s new cooperation initiative, since 2021, Japan has provided remote advice and training on medical technologies and expertise needed in developing countries by connecting medical professionals from Japan and those in developing countries via a communication system in approximately 10 countries in order to improve the medical systems in developing countries steadily. In addition, as part of cooperation to promote DX in the agricultural sector, a training course on Smart Food Chains (SFC)<sup>16</sup> entitled “Human Resource Development on Private-Public-Academia for Agricultural and Rural DX/Smart Food Chain Co-Creation” was held in Hokkaido for approximately two months from June 2023, in which 12 people from 11 Latin American and the Caribbean countries participated. With the cooperation of universities and private companies, the training included practical training and demonstrations on agricultural machinery that utilizes digital technology, such as robotic tractors for field farming, as well as tours of factories.

In order to concretely advance DX, the JICA DXLab was launched in 2022 as an initiative that enables rapid and timely demonstration experiments with digital partners with excellent technology. JICA opens up its assets, such as the sites of its ODA projects in 150 countries and the networks it has cultivated, as a place for co-creation in the digital domain to support the resolution of issues in developing countries and the

<sup>14</sup> Making people’s lives more convenient and enriching them through the introduction of new information technologies, and generating new value by recreating existing business structures with the introduction of new digital technologies, etc.

<sup>15</sup> The concept of DFFT aims to promote the free international flow of data, where data that is useful for solving business and social issues can flow freely without regard for borders, while ensuring trust in terms of privacy, security, and intellectual property rights. DFFT was proposed by then Prime Minister Abe at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (Davos Conference) held in Geneva, Switzerland, in January 2019 and was included in the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019 with the support of the leaders of participating countries.

<sup>16</sup> SFC refers to a platform that connects and accumulates information from entrance (production) to exit (consumption), enabling the sophistication of production, the improvement of added value in sales, and the optimization of distribution.





Confirming the effectiveness of the Smart Eye Camera (SEC), a device that uses a smartphone camera to enable ophthalmic exams in order to improve eye treatment in rural areas of Malawi (Photo: OUI. Inc.)

business expansion of its digital partners. By December 2023, a total of four projects had been implemented in Ethiopia, India, and Indonesia.

### ■ Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

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

Japan promotes “quality infrastructure investment” in the ICT field in developing countries.<sup>18</sup> It actively supports the establishment of telecommunications and broadcasting equipment and facilities, the introduction of the technology and systems they require, and relevant human resources development. Specifically, Japan actively works to support the overseas promotion and the introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T),<sup>19</sup> which has been adopted in a total of 20 countries<sup>20</sup> in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and other regions as of April 2023. Japan also conducts training programs through JICA every year for countries adopting or considering ISDB-T. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) also promotes assistance that offers ICT solutions to resolve social issues through



A discussion on disaster prevention equipment operation guidelines under the “Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Network Operational Capacity Improvement Project” in the Maldives (Photo: Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.)

dialogues and joint projects with partner governments.

Japan works with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)<sup>21</sup> to provide a variety of development assistance in the fields of telecommunications and ICT to developing countries. Since October 2020, under the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has cooperated with the ITU to launch Connect2Recover (C2R), which supports developing countries and regions mainly in Africa to draft national strategies for strengthening digital infrastructure and improving their usage environments. Among the pilot projects in the “Giga” initiative<sup>22</sup> jointly implemented by ITU and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Japan has provided support for introducing internet connectivity to schools in Rwanda. Starting in 2022, Japan has supported Zimbabwe and Mauritania in evaluating the resilience of their network infrastructure, developing maps that show the connection status of telecommunications networks before and after natural disasters, and formulating national strategies for the dissemination of ICT. Additionally, as a result of reaching out to various countries to expand the C2R project, the Governments of Australia, Czech Republic, and Lithuania have decided to provide funding, and the area of activities expanded to countries in Asia, the Caribbean, and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific

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

<sup>18</sup> In 2017, Japan formulated the Playbook for Investment in “Quality ICT Infrastructure” for ICT policymakers and procurement managers of the respective countries and regions.

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

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

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

<sup>22</sup> An initiative launched by UNICEF and ITU in 2019 with the aim of enabling internet access in schools around the world, focusing on developing countries.

Telecommunity (APT)<sup>23</sup> contributes to the balanced development of the telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the region. In order to promote human resources development related to telecommunications, Japan finances a number of training programs conducted by APT every year. In FY2022, 10 training programs including on broadband networks and cybersecurity were implemented and attended by approximately 150 people from the APT member states. The trainees utilize Japanese technology for the development of their own countries’ ICT, and Japanese companies’ expansion into the Asia-Pacific region is also expected through introducing Japanese technology systems.

In the Asia-Pacific region, over 2 billion people do not have internet access due to factors including the fragile infrastructure and the inability to afford it. In the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region and Pacific Island countries, Japan develops an environment to make low-cost, high-speed internet available even in remote islands and areas.



Providing certified white hat hacker training as part of the “Project on Capacity Building for Cyber Security” in Viet Nam (Photo: JICA)

### ■ Cybersecurity

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

Japan has strengthened cooperation with ASEAN through the ASEAN-Japan Cybercrime Dialogue and the Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting. Japan continued to conduct tabletop exercises and other exercises with ASEAN member states in 2023, while also conducting the International Conference on ASEAN-JAPAN Cybersecurity Community (IC-AJCC) commemorating the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. In addition, through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Japan supported the strengthening of the investigative capacity of officials at law enforcement related agencies to deal with crimes committed in cyberspace, which increased under the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan and ASEAN have concurred to further strengthen their cooperation on the issues related to cyber-attacks. As a specific initiative, Japan conducts cybersecurity exercises and other programs at the “ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC),” which was established in Bangkok, Thailand, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).<sup>24</sup> By February 2023, 1,480 people had participated in the training and other programs. In addition, in March 2023, support for the operation of the AJCCBC began as technical cooperation through JICA under the “Project for Enhancing ASEAN-Japan Capacity Building Program for Cybersecurity and Trusted Digital Services.”

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

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

The National Police Agency (NPA) has conducted training for staff engaged in combatting cybercrimes at the People’s Public Security of Viet Nam since 2017, 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.

<sup>23</sup> An international telecommunication organization established in the Asia-Pacific region. Aiming for a balanced development of telecommunication services and information infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, it implements human resources development through training courses and seminars, and coordinates regional policies on standardization, wireless communications, and other telecommunication issues.

<sup>24</sup> See <sup>4</sup> on page 91.

## An ABE Initiative Graduate Connecting Rwanda to a Japanese Company's Lightning Protection Technology



Rwanda, a landlocked country in East Africa, experiences many lightning strikes. Out of a population of about 13 million people, nearly 100 people are killed or injured each year, and electrical and communication infrastructure and equipment failures occur frequently, due to lightning strikes. Thus, lightning protection is one of the urgent issues for Rwanda, which focuses on science and technology education, including ICT, and promotes the ICT industry.

Otowa Electric Co., Ltd, headquartered in Hyogo Prefecture, operates businesses specializing in lightning protection solutions, including the development, manufacturing, and sale of lightning arresters and devices, as well as lightning countermeasure consulting, both in Japan and overseas. The company accepted trainees from Rwanda, who were studying at Kobe Institute of Computing, as interns under the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth).<sup>\*1</sup> This led them to learn about lightning damage in Rwanda and start considering whether their technology could be utilized there.

Looking back on the situation at the time, Vice President Mr. YOSHIDA Atsushi says, "I heard from one of the trainees, Mr. Mugarura Amiri, about the situation of lightning damage in Rwanda, and together we began conducting field research. As a result, we found that there were lightning protection products made overseas available locally, but that sufficient countermeasures were not taken. Also, standardization for lightning protection solutions, which are usually based on international standards, had not been developed."

In 2016, Otowa Electric worked with local engineers in Rwanda on lightning protection solutions at Tumba College of Technology, a local engineer training school that Japan has supported for a long time, and provided the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) with the know-how to protect equipment from lightning through the proper installation and management of lightning arresters. After Otowa Electric conducted its own field research, the company applied for the SDGs Business Supporting Survey.<sup>\*2</sup> The reason was that the company considered the cooperation of JICA, with its local information and networks, essential in order to continue carrying out research, consultations, and construction on lightning protection solutions in Rwanda as a business, and

to spread the countermeasures. Following the acceptance of the SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector in 2017, the "SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Lightning Protection Solution on Key Infrastructure of the ICT Industry in Rwanda" was approved in 2019. The company also set up an Africa business office within the company and works on lightning protection solutions in Rwanda. Local cooperating



Discussion with local cooperating staff about lightning protection solutions at a clinic (Photo: Otowa Electric Co., Ltd.)

staff acquire skills and knowledge in Japan and receive training in areas such as lightning arrester installation, maintenance, and consulting. At the same time, staff of Otowa Electric visit Rwanda from Japan two to three times a year for approximately one month to support local staff in conducting field research and construction work. Mr. Amiri, the first intern who inspired Otowa Electric to launch this project and who



Mr. Amiri (on the right) learning about Japanese technology as an intern at the company's headquarters in Hyogo Prefecture (Photo: Otowa Electric Co., Ltd.)

currently runs his own software company after returning to Rwanda, plays a central role as a partner of Otowa Electric's local activities through technical consulting services for lightning protection. Director Mr. YOSHIDA Syutaro, who is in charge of overseas business, explains, "When officials from RURA visited Japan, we gave them an in-house tour so they could actually see our technology and lightning protection solutions. Once they understood that lightning damage could be prevented through advanced technology, the Government of Rwanda began to promote enhanced countermeasures on its own."

Vice President Yoshida also feels the need for education on the mechanism of lightning and on how to protect oneself from lightning strikes. Otowa Electric, in cooperation with Kyoto University and with the help of some Japanese elementary school students, devised "Kaminari Onigokko (Lightning Tag)," a game through which you can learn evacuation behavior while playing, and promotes lightning protection education to children in Rwanda with Mr. Amiri's assistance. Vice President Yoshida expresses his hopes that, "Even if you introduce good technology, its true value will not be demonstrated unless people understand its necessity. By educating children about lightning protection, we would like them to create a future in which people can take appropriate actions to prevent damage by lightning."

Regarding future prospects, Director Yoshida says, "My top priority is to increase the number of people who understand the importance of lightning protection, and to continue to support Rwanda's efforts to solve problems, even if it takes time. Together with our local partner Mr. Amiri and trained local engineers, our goal is to create a new industry and enrich the lives of local people, and hopefully we would like to develop our business along the way."

\*1 See the glossary on page 145.

\*2 See the glossary on page 130.



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

In the world today, social changes occur and information and communication technology (ICT), artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics are utilized 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 (2030 Agenda)”<sup>25</sup> (Paragraph 70), the UN has established the UN Inter-agency Task Team on STI for the SDGs (UN-IATT) and promotes Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs (STI for SDGs) on a global scale, in cooperation with countries. The UN Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) was held again in 2023. Expectations for STI are internationally increasing as a key to achieve the SDGs while optimizing limited resources.

In the process of Japan’s economic development, Japan has overcome its own challenges in fields such as health and medical care, environment, and disaster risk reduction, fully utilizing STI. Based on these experiences, Japan is engaged in science and technology cooperation through the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program”<sup>\*</sup> and others in order to resolve challenges faced by developing countries. SATREPS, which links ODA and the science and technology budget, was launched in 2008 to support joint research between research institutions and researchers in science and technology fields in Japan and developing countries. 191 research projects in 56 countries around the world have been adopted by FY2023. The development of a sustainable land management framework to combat desertification in Ethiopia is a good example of SATREPS that contributes to resolving challenges in developing countries (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 95).

The UN-IATT conducts the “Global Pilot Programme” to promote the development of an STI roadmap for the SDGs in countries worldwide, including six pilot countries: India, Ukraine,<sup>26</sup> Serbia, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Kenya. Under this Programme, Japan has supported Kenya in the agricultural sector from FY2020 to FY2022 through contributions to the World Bank. In addition, since FY2020, Japan has supported Japanese companies that consider launching projects to resolve social challenges in developing countries through STI, through contributions to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and made efforts to share knowledge gained through this support among developing countries.

In terms of support for research and development, Japan



Research in the electron microscope laboratory of the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Photo: JICA)

is building a next-generation network based on cooperation in human resources development by strengthening assistance for overseas engineering universities.

In Asia, Japan provides support to the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT), which was founded with the aim of establishing Japanese-style engineering education, by procuring equipment and supplies for education and research and by developing curriculum designs, while also conducting cooperation on education and research with Japanese universities. As of 2023, a consortium of 29 universities and two research institutes, among others, has been organized to promote people-to-people exchanges between Japan and Malaysia through joint research and exchange programs. In 2023, the Malaysia-Japan Linkage Office was established within MJIT as a liaison office to strengthen collaboration with Japanese universities and industries.

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

Japan and Egypt have been cooperating under the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) project since 2008. The university was established based on the concept of “offering small class sizes, postgraduate and research-oriented, practical, and international standard of education, leveraging the characteristics of Japanese-style engineering education.” With the cooperation of universities in Japan, assistance was provided in the areas of developing curriculum and dispatching experts and professors. Initially established as a graduate university specializing in engineering-related fields, the university now also has the Faculty

<sup>25</sup> See the glossary on page 32.

<sup>26</sup> Since 2021.

of Engineering, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of International Business and Humanities. E-JUST has been highly praised for its achievements, including joint research and joint supervision with Japanese researchers, exchange student programs and internationalization undertaken by both Japanese and Egyptian governments, and collaboration with Japanese companies. E-JUST was ranked as the top university in Egypt and 7th on the African continent, and placed between 601st and

800th in the world, in the World University Rankings published by the UK's Times Higher Education (THE) in September 2023. E-JUST also supports the admission of international students from the Middle East and Africa, contributing to the development of industrial, scientific and technological human resources in the regions (see "Stories from the Field" on page 80 for development plan of Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad).



## Glossary

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

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

### (3) Quality Infrastructure

For the autonomous development of developing countries, infrastructure that supports people's lives and economic activities and serves as the foundation for their national development is essential. However, developing countries still have enormous demand for infrastructure and the investment gap between infrastructure demand and supply is estimated to be approximately \$15 trillion<sup>27</sup> by 2040. In order to achieve "quality growth"<sup>28</sup> in developing countries, it is necessary to meet this enormous demand for infrastructure. It is very important not only to develop a large amount of infrastructure but also to consider openness, transparency, economic efficiency in view of life-cycle costs, and debt sustainability, etc.



Station building under construction and a train through a loan aid project for Indonesia, "Construction of Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit Project (Phase 2) (I)." (Photo: JICA)

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

### Japan's Efforts

Japan has been working with the international community to disseminate the notion of "quality infrastructure," with the aim of international standardization of it so that more people will have access. The "G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment," endorsed at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit under the Japanese Presidency in May 2016, was the initial step of sharing the fundamental elements of "quality infrastructure investment." In addition, at the G20 Osaka Summit under the Japanese Presidency in June 2019, the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,"<sup>29</sup> which indicate a strategic direction for promoting quality infrastructure investment, were endorsed. Japan cooperates with various countries and international organizations to promote and

<sup>27</sup> Forecasts by the G20 Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH).

<sup>28</sup> See the glossary on page 31.

<sup>29</sup> See the glossary "Quality Infrastructure" on page 40.

implement the Principles, and the importance of “quality infrastructure investment” has been confirmed at various bilateral and multilateral meetings.

At the G7 Elmau Summit in June 2022, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII),<sup>30</sup> an initiative for the G7 to work together to promote quality infrastructure investment to narrow the global investment gap, was launched. Under the PGII, the G7 leaders announced their aim to collectively mobilize up to \$600 billion in public and private investment over five years, with a particular focus on quality infrastructure. Prime Minister Kishida stated that in order to promote infrastructure investment in line with the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Japan aims to mobilize more than \$65 billion in infrastructure assistance and private capital, and will continue to deepen cooperation with the G7 and other countries.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, Prime Minister Kishida hosted a side-event on the PGII and invited participants from the private sector for the first time. During the side-event, Prime Minister Kishida explained the initiatives of the PGII and the projects that Japan has undertaken under the PGII. He also stated that Japan is delivering infrastructure investment around the world including Asia, Africa, and Oceania to mobilize infrastructure assistance and private capital and that Japan would work to further promote quality infrastructure investment (see Part I, Section 2 on page 6 for details of the G7 Hiroshima Summit).

The Ministerial Statement issued at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in June 2023 confirmed the member countries’ commitment to promoting quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure investment including through the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and PGII, and acknowledged the importance of promoting certification schemes such as the Blue Dot Network (BDN).<sup>31</sup>

Prime Minister Kishida attended a side-event on the PGII on the sidelines of the G20 New Delhi Summit in September 2023, and expressed Japan’s commitment to take the lead in efforts to materialize the PGII, in cooperation with various actors.

At the side-event, Prime Minister Kishida introduced that Japan has been working on the development of various transport infrastructures, such as the construction of metro lines in New Delhi, India, to support the economic growth of each country as one of Japan’s major initiatives in South Asia. He also stated that Japan would take the achievements to date a step further by extending its support to a wide range of areas, including the supply chain, to strengthen connectivity. He also announced Japan’s intention to work on the creation of industrial value chains across



Full span casting (a method for construction of viaducts) as part of the “Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail” in India (Photo: National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL))

the Bay of Bengal by organically linking the development of the northeast region of India, including the “Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project,” with “the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B)” initiative in Bangladesh.

In ASEAN, Japan has promoted many projects to develop transport infrastructure such as the Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia, the Patimban Port and Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit in Indonesia, and the Metro Manila Subway in the Philippines. At a side-event of the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings in September 2023, Prime Minister Kishida announced the “Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative,” which promotes both structural and non-structural cooperation. He announced that Japan would support the strengthening of connectivity in areas including digital connectivity, maritime cooperation, supply chain resilience, electricity connectivity, and human and knowledge connectivity, in addition to the transport infrastructure development that Japan has been supporting.

For efforts in Pacific Island countries, Japan, the United States, Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia jointly announced Japan-U.S.-Australia joint support for the East Micronesia Cable (EMC) in December 2021, and in June 2023, an undersea cable contract was signed, leading to the steady progress of the project. In these ways, Japan will continue to support the development of quality infrastructure in the ICT field to strengthen connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region in order to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” in cooperation with the United States, Australia, and other like-minded countries.

For the African region, at the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) held in Tunisia in August 2022, Japan announced initiatives that would promote enhancement in regional connectivity, in addition to improving social infrastructure development in Africa through the development of quality infrastructure and one-stop border posts at national borders.

<sup>30</sup> PGII is the G7’s shared commitment to promoting public and private investment in sustainable, inclusive, resilient and quality infrastructure.

<sup>31</sup> A framework for internationally accrediting quality infrastructure projects in developing countries to be established by Japan, the United States, and Australia, with the United States taking the lead since November 2019.



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



Members of the National Control Center and a team of Japanese experts in the “Project for Power Quality Improvement through Upgrading Grid Code and Strengthening its Enforcement System” in Laos (Photo: JICA)



## Glossary

### Quality infrastructure

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

## Featured Project



### Utilizing Japanese Technology to Develop Infrastructure that Improves Connectivity within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region

#### Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project

Loan Aid (March 2017 – March 2024)

India

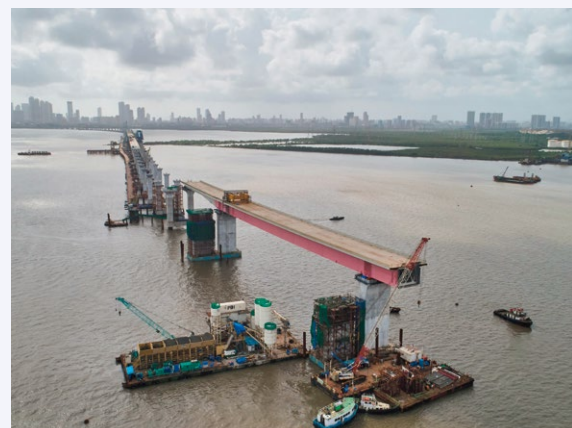


While India has seen rapid urbanization in recent years, the development of public transportation infrastructure has not progressed sufficiently. This leads to increasingly serious traffic congestion in major metropolitan areas, and the economic losses associated with it have become an obstacle to economic development. The Mumbai metropolitan region, the largest metropolitan region in the country situated in the west coast of India, hosts many Japanese companies, and the city of Mumbai at the center of the metropolitan region is one of the most densely populated cities in the world. The Government of Maharashtra, which has jurisdiction over Mumbai City, has been promoting urban development by attracting industries from Mumbai City to its satellite city of Navi Mumbai on the opposite coast, in order to develop the economy of the entire metropolitan region. However, the only means of transport connecting the two areas is by road or by rail that circle Mumbai Bay, and the lack of connectivity has been an issue.

This project aims to improve connectivity within the Mumbai metropolitan region by constructing a sea-crossing road bridge with a total length of approximately 18 km and a land approach road with a total length of approximately 4 km. The road will connect central Mumbai to the developing Navi Mumbai area across Mumbai Bay. A Japanese technology called orthotropic steel deck (OSD)<sup>\*1</sup> is used for the first time in India. With the technology, bridge girders can be erected at once leading to shorter construction times and environmentally friendly construction.

This project is expected to shorten travel time between central Mumbai and the city of Navi Mumbai from one hour to approximately 15 minutes, a quarter of the time it used to take. Improving connectivity in the Mumbai metropolitan region, which

hosts many Japanese companies, is expected to not only promote economic development in the region, but also benefit Japanese companies operating in other parts of the state of Maharashtra.



Orthotropic steel deck (OSD) erection work at sea (Photo: MMRDA/L&T-IHI Consortium)

<sup>\*1</sup> A type of steel bridge that combines steel deck slabs and steel box girders. Because it is lightweight and has an all-steel structure, there is little variation in construction accuracy, allowing for highly accurate construction. In addition, compared to typical PC cable-stayed bridges, the OSD bridge is characterized by a lower height. This technology was considered appropriate for this project in consideration of the birds that inhabit the project area.

#### (4) Efforts on Debt Issues

While official loan assistance is supposed to promote economic growth in developing countries, repayment of the debts resulting from such loans could crowd out their essential fiscal spending and thus inhibit their sustainable growth when developing countries face a heavy debt burden due to failures in economic or fiscal policies, changes in the international economic environment, or other reasons. Although debtor countries themselves must resolve this issue through various efforts, including economic and fiscal reforms, the international community needs to respond when excessive debt stands in the way of the debtor countries’ sustainability and development path.

In regard to international efforts to address debt issues, debt relief measures have been implemented including through the Enhanced HIPC Initiative<sup>32</sup> for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)\* and the Paris Club’s<sup>33</sup> Evian Approach.<sup>34</sup> However, in recent years, despite debt relief in some low-income countries, private debt has accumulated in addition to public debt, thus raising renewed concerns about their worsening debt sustainability. The reason behind this situation on the debtors’ side is pointed out as being that debtor countries lack the capacity to gather and disclose their own debt data and appropriately manage their debt. The reasons on the creditors’ side are pointed out as being that the funding providers have diversified the proportion of loans increasingly coming from emerging donor countries and private creditors, including the provision of untraditional and non-concessional loans such as collateralized financing, while the proportion of loans by Paris Club creditors has been decreasing.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious impact on the debt issues of low-income countries. In response to this situation, the G20 and Paris Club launched the “Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)”\* in April 2020 and implemented measures to temporarily suspend payment of public debt owed by low-income countries. It is estimated that at least \$12.9 billion of total debt service was deferred under the DSSI between May 2020 and December 2021, benefiting 48 countries.<sup>35</sup> Although the DSSI ended at the end of December 2021, since then, the G20 and Paris Club creditor countries have jointly provided debt treatments under the “Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI,”\*

agreed on in November 2020.

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 railroads come at a large cost, and debt service repayments can become a significant burden for the borrowing countries. When financing infrastructure projects, it is necessary for both the borrowers and lenders to fully consider debt sustainability. Loans without consideration of debt sustainability are criticized as a “debt trap” by the international community.

The “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment”<sup>36</sup> incorporated the importance of considering country-level debt sustainability as well as project-level financial sustainability. They also include the principles of openness, transparency, and economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost. Each G20 country is required to implement these principles as an international standard in their infrastructure investments and to work to ensure that these principles are implemented in the countries receiving loans.

#### Japan’s Efforts

In providing ODA loans, Japan makes its decisions based on the careful consideration of the cooperation structure, debt service repayment ability, operational capacity, credit protection measures, etc. of the recipient countries. Most of the recipient countries make repayments as scheduled. However, there are exceptional cases in which they face serious difficulties in their repayment due to events that could not be foreseen when they received ODA loans. In such cases, based on international agreements such as the aforementioned Enhanced HIPC Initiative and Paris Club agreements, Japan provides debt relief in the form of debt rescheduling,<sup>37</sup> cancellation, and reduction only to the minimum extent necessary. As of the end of 2023, Japan has cancelled ODA debts worth a total of approximately ¥1.129 trillion toward 33 countries since FY2003. As part of Japan’s debt relief efforts, in January 2023, Japan signed and exchanged notes concerning debt relief for Ukraine (debt service suspension). In August, Japan signed and exchanged notes with Argentina to reschedule some arrears. In addition, Japan, as one of the co-chairs of the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) for Sri Lanka, led the negotiation processes, and the OCC and the Government of Sri Lanka reached an agreement

<sup>32</sup> An initiative agreed at the Cologne Summit (Germany) in 1999.

<sup>33</sup> An informal group of creditor countries to discuss 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 debtor countries.

<sup>34</sup> A new Paris Club approach to debt restructuring (the Evian Approach). Debt relief measures focus more on the debt sustainability of recipient countries, especially low-income and middle-income debtor countries other than HIPC, and take case-by-case measures corresponding with the circumstances of each debtor country.

<sup>35</sup> See World Bank website (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>)

<sup>36</sup> See the glossary “Quality Infrastructure” on page 40.

<sup>37</sup> Debt rescheduling is one form of debt relief, wherein payment is postponed for a certain period of time in order to reduce the burden of debt payment on the debtor country.

## New Plan for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”

The Indo-Pacific region, which extends from the Asia-Pacific Ocean through the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, is the core of vitality for the world and home to half of the world's population. To establish a free and open order based on the rule of law with the countries and regions of the Indo-Pacific and with various partners in the international community that share these ideals, Japan has promoted efforts to realize the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” that Japan advocated in 2016.

On March 20, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida, who was on a visit to India, delivered a policy speech entitled “the Future of the Indo-Pacific—Japan’s New Plan for a ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific’ — ‘Together with India, as an Indispensable Partner.’” With this speech, he announced Japan’s new plan for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP),” which launches the four pillars of cooperation for FOIP: (1) Principles for Peace and Rules for Prosperity, (2) Addressing Challenges in an Indo-Pacific Way, (3) Multi-layered Connectivity, and (4) Extending Efforts for Security and Safe Use of the “Sea” to the “Air.”

The new plan reaffirms FOIP’s core principles of “freedom,” “openness,” “diversity,” “inclusiveness,” and the “rule of law” at a time when the international community is at history’s turning point, and states that efforts to realize FOIP will be

strengthened. As part of such efforts, Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan would mobilize a total of more than \$75 billion in public and private funds in the Indo-Pacific region by 2030 in infrastructure and grow together with other countries.

The Development Cooperation Charter, revised in June 2023, states the maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order based on the rule of law as a priority policy for Japan’s development cooperation. In particular, under the vision of FOIP, the revised Charter demonstrates Japan’s strong determination to endeavor to promote these efforts and cooperate with developing countries to enable them to proactively engage in such an international order and enjoy its fruits, free from force or coercion.

Japan has promoted various initiatives that are in line with the four pillars of the new plan for a FOIP. One example is the construction of a new port in Patimban, located in the eastern part of the Jakarta metropolitan area in Indonesia. This project aims to strengthen the logistics functions of the metropolitan area with the construction of a container terminal at Patimban Port along with a car terminal and other facilities. This will help resolve capacity shortages at ports in the Jakarta metropolitan area, and facilitate exports by improving the efficiency of cargo logistics, which, in turn, will boost regional and international economic connectivity. The development of Patimban Port, which has good access from auto-related local manufacturers, including Japanese-affiliated companies, will contribute to the increase in exports from Indonesia, benefiting Japanese companies.

As this example shows, facilitating smooth logistics by securing connectivity also contributes to supporting Japanese companies’ exports to the Indo-Pacific region and overseas expansions. Japan supports developing countries to build “quality infrastructure” toward the realization of connectivity across the Indo-Pacific. In doing so, Japan works through its unique technical cooperation and human resources development so that the competitiveness of Japanese companies in ODA tendering and trust in Japan can be enhanced.



Prime Minister Kishida delivering a policy speech and announcing Japan’s new plan for a FOIP at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Video “New Plan for a ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)’”







Access road to Patimban Port in Indonesia (Photo: Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd.)

Japan also contributes to securing maritime peace and security. For example, in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, a logistics hub for a large number of Japan-related vessels, Japan utilizes ODA to support capacity building for anti-piracy measures in coastal countries, thereby reducing the number of piracy incidents. Similarly, in the Indian Ocean, Japan contributes to ensuring marine traffic safety by providing capacity building assistance to coast guard agencies for maritime rescue, technical cooperation for nautical chart preparation, and support for enhancing Vessel Traffic Service (VTS).

Furthermore, Japan strengthens the promotion and consolidation of the rule of law in developing countries by assisting in the development of legal systems and judicial reforms. In this era where the international community faces compound crises, these efforts become increasingly important. Japan contributes to establishing good governance

in developing countries, creating a foundation that is crucial to the realization of sustainable growth, and fostering an effective trade and investment environment for Japanese companies' overseas expansions.

Japan is an island country and the fourth-largest trading country in the world. Its industries and the lives of its people are heavily reliant on maritime transportation and cargo. From this perspective, securing connectivity and ensuring the safety of sea lanes are important for Japan's economic, energy, and food security. The stability and prosperity of Japan and the Indo-Pacific region cannot be realized without a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” where diverse people, goods, and wisdom are actively exchanged, supported by highly transparent rules. Japan will continue to make efforts to realize FOIP, while aiming to maximize the impact of its development cooperation, with ODA at its core.



JICA and the Japan Coast Guard conducting an arresting technique training course for the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)



A seminar for students at a school of judges and prosecutors conducted under the “Legal and Judicial Development Project” in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)

in principle on debt restructuring in November.

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

From the perspective of ensuring debt sustainability, an important element of the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment,” Japan is working on the

improvement of the capabilities related to public debt and risk management among management personnel at the finance ministries of developing countries through contributions to international organizations, as well as through training and the dispatch of experts by JICA. For example, in FY2022, Japan provided support for capacity building in debtor countries, including training in collaboration with the World Bank for 31 administrative officers from 29 countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia, on contingent liability risk management, and new financial contributions to the respective trust funds of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.



## Glossary

### Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC)

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

### Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)

A framework for temporarily suspending debt payments for low-income countries facing a liquidity crisis due to COVID-19's impact. The G20 and the Paris Club, a group of major traditional creditor countries, agreed in April 2020 to temporarily suspend debt service repayments that would be due in the period from May 2020 to the end of December 2020, and subsequently extended the suspension period twice (agreed in October 2020 on an extension to June 2021, and in April 2021 on an extension to the end of December 2021). As of February 23, 2022, 42 developing countries had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Paris Club.

### Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI

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

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

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

## 2

## Realizing Peaceful, Secure, and Stable Societies, and Maintenance and Strengthening of a Free and Open International Order Based on the Rule of Law

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

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

Such conflicts generate a great number of refugees and displaced persons, resulting in humanitarian crises. These conflicts also undermine years of development efforts and cause significant economic losses. The impact of a conflict in one country or region affects the entire world in one way or another, and the prolongation of such conflicts has become a challenge. Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which started in 2022, and the situation surrounding Israel and Palestine since the terrorist attacks by Hamas and other terrorist groups in October 2023 have spurred a serious humanitarian crisis, and had a major negative impact on the global economy, society, and stability. In addition, there are concerns about the impact of climate change on peace and stability. As the challenges faced by the international community become more complex and diverse, peacebuilding efforts aimed at establishing the foundations for development are increasingly important for the consolidation of sustainable peace.



A Japanese expert inspecting a cocoa farm under the "Project for Strengthening Inclusive Agricultural and Rural Development to Promote Peace Building with Legality (DRIP de PAZ)" in Colombia (Photo: JICA)

### Japan's Efforts

#### ■ Support for Peacebuilding

In response to humanitarian crises caused by conflicts, among other causes, Japan promotes the "Humanitarian-Development Nexus," in which urgently needed humanitarian assistance is provided, taking into account the medium- to long-term perspective of development cooperation from its early stage. As humanitarian crises become more prolonged and diverse, Japan also places importance on the idea of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDP Nexus),<sup>38</sup> in which assistance is provided to sustain peace through resilient state-building and social stabilization from a medium- to long-term view even in times of peace. In various countries and regions, Japan seamlessly extends humanitarian assistance, support for poverty reduction and economic development, and peacebuilding and conflict recurrence prevention assistance in order to bolster self-reliant development and address the root causes of crises.

In order to provide seamless assistance, Japan combines different types of support such as assistance through international organizations, grant aid, loan aid, and technical cooperation, and provides humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons affected by conflicts, and assistance for conducting elections for post-conflict political peace processes. To promote the consolidation of peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict, Japan also supports the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, security sector reform, and the enhancement of administrative, judicial, and police functions. Furthermore, Japan supports the development of economic infrastructure and institutions, as well as social sectors such as health and education. Japan also extends support for displaced persons' coexistence with host communities, reconstruction in areas such as the repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons, and the rebuilding of basic socio-economic infrastructure. In these efforts, Japan actively promotes women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding in line with UN Security Council resolutions, including UNSC resolution 1325, which recognizes the importance of the role of women in peacebuilding (see page 83 regarding Women, Peace and Security (WPS)).

As cases of sexual violence during Russia's aggression against Ukraine have been confirmed, in 2023, Japan

<sup>38</sup> In parallel with humanitarian assistance, the approach of the HDP Nexus is to provide development cooperation to enhance refugee self-reliance and reduce the burden on host countries, and also to address the root causes of refugee issues by promoting peace efforts to resolve and prevent conflicts.



provided protection, counseling, and necessary services through UN Women to displaced women and girls affected by the war in Ukraine and its neighboring countries, including approximately 2,000 women who were survivors of sexual violence, and also conducted language and basic life skills training for approximately 1,500 women and girls to help maintain their livelihoods.

Discussions are taking place in the international community on conflict resolution and prevention, as well as post-conflict recovery and assistance for nation-building in forums such as the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).<sup>\*</sup> Japan has been a member of the PBC since its establishment, and has made active contributions by emphasizing the importance of efforts to build institutions and to develop human resources, and the need to strengthen cooperation among related organizations (related UN bodies such as the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and the PBC, donor countries, regional agencies, international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, and the private sector). As of December 2023, Japan contributed a total of \$63.07 million to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)<sup>\*</sup> and supported it as a major donor. Japan started its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in January 2023 and has contributed to peacebuilding efforts at the UN as one of its priorities during its term. For example, Japan hosted a ministerial-level open debate on peacebuilding in January 2023 during its presidency of the UN Security Council.

Japan has long made efforts to strengthen coordination between development cooperation and international peace cooperation activities such as UN peacekeeping operations (UN PKOs). In the countries and regions where UN PKOs are deployed, many initiatives are underway that contribute to efforts for protecting refugees/displaced persons, women, and children affected by conflict and developing basic infrastructure. To maximize the benefits of these efforts, it remains important for Japan to promote such forms of coordination. For example, in 2023, Japan provided assistance to approximately 4,500 victims of gender-based violence in Yemen. In addition, Japan provided capacity development training for 50 people involved in protection services, livelihood support to 200 women, and support for the capacity building of 100 women who will participate in peacebuilding, in order to promote efforts toward peace and stability in the country.

Japan proactively contributes to the “UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP),” in which trilateral parties, namely the UN, Supporting Member States, and Troop Contributing Countries, work together to

conduct training and other activities for uniformed personnel to be dispatched to UN PKO missions. Under this framework, for example, Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) personnel are dispatched to Africa and Asia to train engineering personnel on the operation of heavy engineering equipment. In the field of medical care, Japan dispatches JSDF personnel to conduct training on life-saving treatment and contributes to the development of telemedicine systems for UN PKO missions. At the UN General Assembly in September 2023, Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan would expand support for peacebuilders. Specifically, given that African Union (AU)-led Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs) play an important role in maintaining peace and stability in Africa, the Government of Japan decided to contribute approximately \$8.5 million for conducting training for personnel to be dispatched to AUPSOs under the TPP framework.

In addition, since the skill sets demanded of those in the field of peacebuilding are increasingly diversified and complex, Japan cultivates civilian specialists who can make a significant contribution on the ground both in Japan and abroad through the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development.”<sup>39</sup> So far, a total of over 950 people have participated in training programs in Japan. Many graduates of these programs are playing active roles in the fields of peacebuilding and development around the world including regions such as Asia and Africa.

### ■ Support for Refugees and Displaced Persons

Given the situations in Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, and other countries, the number of forcibly displaced people including refugees and displaced persons worldwide has been increasing year after year. In 2022, the number surpassed 100 million people, the highest level since the end of World War II, and humanitarian situations are becoming increasingly severe. Japan co-hosted the Second Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva in December 2023 and called for strengthening unity and cooperation of the international community to prevent the deterioration of humanitarian situations, to help refugees and displaced persons both at home and abroad become self-reliant, and to ease the pressures on host countries (see also “ODA Topics” on page 49). In addition, Japan provides humanitarian assistance from the viewpoint of human security, 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 enable each person to get back on their own feet.

<sup>39</sup> In FY2007 Japan began the “Program for Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding,” and in FY2015, the program was renewed with expanded content as the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development” ([https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/peace\\_b/f\\_ikusei\\_shokai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/peace_b/f_ikusei_shokai.html) (in Japanese only)). The renewed program includes the “Mid-Career Course,” which supports the career advancement of those with a certain degree of practical experience in fields related to peacebuilding and development, in addition to the existing “Primary Course,” which offers training in Japan to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary on the ground and on-the-job training at the field offices of international organizations.



Refugees in Uganda at a workshop on post-harvest rice processing by JICA (Photo: JICA)

In particular, Japan works with international organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to continue to provide assistance around the world by delivering supplies for basic human needs such as shelter and food. Japan works with the above UN agencies, 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, and provides assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others, even in areas with security concerns by utilizing their expertise and coordination capabilities. For example, in 2023, Japan extended Emergency Grant Aid to Sudan and its neighboring countries through WFP, UNHCR, IOM, and other organizations in order to provide food, essential goods, etc. in support of refugees and internally displaced persons affected by the military engagement in Sudan. Additionally, emergency humanitarian assistance is provided by Japanese NGOs through the Japan Platform (JPF)<sup>40</sup> (see also “Japanese Personnel at International Organizations Playing Active Roles on the Front Lines across the World” on page 50).

Upon providing this kind of assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others through international organizations, Japan promotes cooperation among JICA, NGOs, and the private sector. For example, in the case of refugee assistance, UNHCR works in collaboration with JICA to implement a program combining emergency and reconstruction assistance. In addition, Japan provides assistance for refugees, displaced persons, and others in collaboration with JPF (see also “Featured Project” on page 133).

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

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

Japan also conducts steady international cooperation from the perspective of the HDP Nexus as a signatory to the “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction” and the “Convention on Cluster Munitions,” through preventive measures such as risk reduction education, in addition to mine clearance and assistance for survivors. For example, Japan supports the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) with an overall capacity enhancement program, such as strengthening its training capacity at home and abroad, capacity building of its administrative staff, and the development of its information systems so that CMAC can make further international contributions. Japan also supports the upgrading of CMAC’s training complex and outreach facility in order to improve its training and educational environment for mine-action personnel and to raise awareness of landmine issues among visitors.

Through such comprehensive support, CMAC has provided training for mine action officials in third countries, such as Colombia and Laos. In addition, CMAC has conducted training for officials of the Government of Ukraine on the use of mine detectors in Cambodia in January 2023 and in Poland in July 2023, as well as awareness-raising activities for residents, thereby, contributing to the realization of South-South cooperation.<sup>41</sup> In Laos, where the damage caused by UXO is particularly severe, in addition to training at CMAC, Japan dispatches experts to UXO Lao, a UXO countermeasure organization, to strengthen its operational capacity for formulating work plans and monitoring, while also developing facilities for its activities and providing equipment such as mine detection sensors. Utilizing its experience and knowledge gained through many years of cooperation in mine action in Cambodia and other parts of the world, Japan proactively assists in the clearance of mines and UXO in Ukraine, which is essential not only to ensure the safety and security of

<sup>40</sup> See the glossary on page 137.

<sup>41</sup> See the glossary on page 103.

residents but also to rebuild livelihoods, agriculture, and industries in its post-war reconstruction.

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

In Afghanistan, the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), a Japanese NGO, implements education projects such as the development of educational materials and conducting seminars, with the aim of raising awareness on the risks of landmines, UXO, and other remnants of conflict, and on the appropriate ways of avoiding them, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (since FY2009) and projects by JPF (since FY2001). The reach of these awareness activities to residents is steadily expanding.

In addition to providing such bilateral support, Japan is proactively engaged in measures against mines and UXO through international organizations. In 2023, Japan conducted clearance, risk education, and victim assistance against landmines and UXO through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine, Sudan, Nigeria, and South Sudan. For example, in Syria, Japan provided assistance to victims of explosive ordnance and worked to formulate a framework for the implementation of assistance to victims through UNMAS. In 2023, Japan also provided support for mine risk reduction education in the Central African Republic,



Mine detection dogs training at the CMAC training complex (Photo: JICA)

Chad, Iraq, Palestine, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen via the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It also provides support including risk reduction education in countries and regions such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, and other countries through the ICRC.

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



## Glossary

### UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

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

### UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)

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



## ODA Topics

2

# The Second Global Refugee Forum – Co-Convenor Japan’s Effort –

The number of forced displacements has more than doubled in the last decade, and the number of people forced to leave their homes exceeded 100 million for the first time in 2022.\*1 This surge is due to prolonged man-made conflicts around the world. While refugees are still unable to return to their home countries, new crises such as Russia’s aggression against Ukraine are causing more outflows. Recent intensified natural disasters caused by climate change have further worsened this situation.

In 2018, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) was adopted by the UN General Assembly as a new international framework for refugee assistance. Its aims were; (1) to ease the pressures on host countries, (2) to enhance refugee self-reliance, (3) to expand access to third country solutions, and (4) to support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. The Global Refugee Forum (GRF) is a follow-up meeting to the GCR that is held every four years, with the aim of sharing efforts to resolve refugee issues and encouraging cooperation among the international community. The first meeting was held in December 2019.

The second GRF was held in December 2023, with more than 4,200 participants from countries and regions around the world, and Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended from Japan, which served as a co-convenor along with France, Colombia, Jordan, and Uganda.

At the opening ceremony of the second GRF, Foreign Minister Kamikawa stressed in her statement that to halt the worsening humanitarian situation, we must all envision a future where each and every refugee and displaced person can have opportunities to work hard to make their dreams come true. She pointed out that women and children are particularly vulnerable among refugees and displaced persons, and that the concept of Women, Peace and Security (WPS)\*2 is essential when addressing forced displacement. She also explained Japan’s efforts to support the self-reliance of the displaced both overseas and within Japan, and to ease the pressures on host countries. Moreover, the Minister strongly called for greater unity and cooperation in the international community, and announced that Japan would expand the efforts of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus\*3 as a platform for collaboration among the international community.

Foreign Minister Kamikawa held bilateral meetings with refugee host countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, and Uganda, which participated in the GRF. Minister Kamikawa highly valued the fact that these countries contribute to peace and stability in the region by receiving many refugees despite their own difficulties, and announced the intention of the Government of Japan to strengthen support to ease the pressures on the respective countries. At the bilateral meeting between Japan and France, the two foreign ministers concurred to further strengthen cooperation



Foreign Minister Kamikawa making a statement at the opening ceremony of the Second Global Refugee Forum



Refugees and the people in the host community participating in a rice cultivation workshop in Uganda (Photo: JICA)

under an “Exceptional Partnership,” by following up on the Roadmap on Japan-France Cooperation issued by the leaders of the two countries.



Displaced women in Bangladesh receiving sewing skill training as part of self-reliance support, conducted by UNIQLO in collaboration with UNHCR (Photo: Fast Retailing Co., Ltd.)

Japan organized a dialogue with representatives from international organizations on the occasion of the GRF, titled “WPS + Innovation – from the field of humanitarian aid especially for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).” Foreign Minister Kamikawa heard from the representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) about the challenges they face on the ground and asked about the role they expect from Japan. Foreign Minister Kamikawa stated that she would like to apply WPS specifically to the current situation in Ukraine and the Middle East, as well as issues faced by countries in Africa and Latin America, while applying the knowledge gained from the international organizations to future international assistance from the perspective of WPS.

The second GRF recommended that multiple countries and organizations form multi-stakeholder pledges (MSP) for various types of support and work together under the pledges. A total of 43 MSPs were announced in areas such as HDP nexus, gender equality, peacebuilding, and education, which will be led by the lead countries and organizations of each MSP over the next four years.

\*1 UNHCR “Global Trends Report 2022”  
<https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>

\*2 See Part III, Section 3 (6) on page 81.

\*3 See 38 on page 45.

# Japanese Personnel at International Organizations<sup>\*1</sup>

## Playing Active Roles on the Front Lines across the World

### – From the Field of Support for Refugees and Displaced Persons –

#### ARAKAKI Shoko

Humanitarian Response Division Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

I am based in Geneva and serve as the first Director of the UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division, which was newly established in July 2019. UNFPA works to provide access to a wide range of sexual and reproductive health<sup>\*2</sup> and gender-based violence protection services to women, girls, and young people in more than 150 countries. The Humanitarian Response Division focuses on approximately 60 countries facing humanitarian crises. In emergencies caused by natural disasters or conflicts, we oversee the deployment of personnel and relief supplies, including the dispatch of emergency response teams to transport supplies. In November 2023, during the pause in fighting in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, we were in charge of logistic support for transporting relief supplies and ensuring stockpiles.

As a Division Director, I regularly visit humanitarian countries including refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps to gain a good grasp of the actual situation on the ground and to be able to provide more tailored humanitarian assistance. This year, I visited refugee and IDP camps in Kenya and Ethiopia, where I observed sports activities for refugees with disabilities and the deployment of mobile clinics supported by the Government of Japan. Through these visits, I genuinely felt that the efforts to promote “human security” were recognized and appreciated by the local people.

UNFPA sets the transformative goal of ending preventable maternal death and gender-based violence by 2030, much of which occurs amid humanitarian crises. In collaboration with other international organizations, partner organizations, and donor countries, including Japan, UNFPA will continue to deliver humanitarian assistance and advocate the specific needs of women and girls in humanitarian emergencies.



The author (on the left) listening to the people living in a camp for internally displaced persons in Mozambique (Photo: UNFPA)

#### YAMAMOTO Yuichiro

Child Protection Specialist, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Afghanistan Country Office

In Afghanistan, after the Taliban announced the formation of a “transitional government” in August 2021, humanitarian needs have become unprecedentedly high due to rapid economic decline, collapse of the national social service systems, recurring natural disasters, and the exclusion of women and girls from public life. Following the end of fighting between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban, Afghans who had taken refuge in neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan have returned to their home country, but many of them face the same or even worse hardships and conditions that had prompted their initial migration.

I was assigned to the UNICEF Afghanistan Country Office in 2022. In order to ensure that all children in Afghanistan are protected from violence, abuse, and exploitation, one of my responsibilities is to work with the Taliban’s “transitional government” to strengthen the child protection system in the country. As part of our efforts, I coordinate the recruitment, training, and deployment of social workers who identify and respond to cases of child rights violations across the country. Since 2022, with financial contributions from Japan, UNICEF has been providing psychosocial and social support to vulnerable children in addition to referrals to much-needed services such as education and health. We also provide opportunities for vocational training and income generating activities to support their reintegration into society. Regarding the support for unaccompanied and separated children who have returned from neighboring countries, we help them reunite with their families and facilitate their transfer to their location of origin.



The author (second from the right) interacting with returnee children at a “Child Friendly Space” set up by the border point between Afghanistan and Pakistan (Photo: UNICEF)

#### ITO Tsuneko

Reporting Liaison Officer, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)  
Multi-Country Office in Amman

Lebanon is said to be the country that hosts the largest number of refugees per capita in the world,<sup>\*3</sup> with approximately a quarter of the population being refugees. The sharp increase in the refugee population since the onset of the Syrian civil war in 2011 has put pressure on the provision of basic public services, particularly in the health sector. In addition to the chronic shortage and aging of medical devices, the daily power outages caused by the economic crisis, soaring fuel prices, and supply shortages have been affecting even the operation of emergency lifesaving medical equipment at health facilities.

With funding from the Government of Japan, since 2021, UNOPS has supported strengthening the strained health system by providing medical equipment and installing solar panels in critical public hospitals that serve vulnerable Lebanese populations living in difficult situations as well as refugees.

Since 2020, in the UNOPS Multi-Country Office, which covers the Middle East region, including Lebanon, I have been coordinating partnerships development and supporting project implementation leveraging the UNOPS’ expertise in procurement, infrastructure, and project management. To serve as a bridge between people in need of assistance and donor organizations, together with colleagues, I am working to deliver sustainable support that promotes the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. Such endeavors include incorporating responses to medium- to long-term development challenges into humanitarian assistance that benefits both host communities and refugees, shown in the instance of introduction of renewable energy solutions addressing climate change.



Handover ceremony at Baabda Governmental Hospital in Lebanon (the author is second from the left) (Photo: Ministry of Public Health of Lebanon)

## KOBAYAKAWA Akiko

Head of Programme, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)  
Myanmar Country Office

I have been working for UNOPS since 2000 and have been responsible for resource mobilization and project implementation for mine action and infrastructure works in conflict-affected countries. Mines, explosive remnants of war, and improvised explosive devices impede the return of refugees and displaced persons, further reconstruction and development, and the consolidation of peace. Many people became victims of unexploded ordnance (UXOs). For example, children often mistake them for a toy, and others try to scrap the metals for money when the ordnance explodes. Therefore, comprehensive mine action is imperative, covering risk education, clearance and victim assistance. I previously worked for the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)/UNOPS Syria Office. After three years of negotiations with the government, we were able to start the demining of agricultural land in the outskirts of the capital, which leads to farmers returning to farming.

Myanmar, where I took up my current post in May 2022, is still in the midst of ongoing conflict. Approximately 2 million people, equating to approximately 4% of the country's 55 million population, have become IDPs and are living in dire situations. With funding from the Government of Japan, UNOPS provides essential items such as hygiene products, water buckets, and mosquito nets in the IDP camps of tropical regions where many ethnic minorities live. Solar lanterns, also provided by UNOPS, allow people to charge mobile phones and study at home, in addition to enabling protection, as they allow women and children to use the toilets safely at night. We also installed solar panels at the health clinics, supporting continuous patients' visits and consultations, and caring for pregnant women and nursing mothers, even when there is no electricity. In Myanmar, humanitarian mine action is also an imminent priority but activities are currently limited to mine risk education. We are carefully continuing joint efforts to start mine clearance activities in the future ahead.



The author (on the right) visiting the clinic UNOPS supported, with the clinic midwife (Photo: UNOPS)

## AKAO Kunikazu

Head of Sub-Office (Shire, Tigray Region) and Durable Solution Manager, International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
Ethiopia Country Office

I joined the IOM Ethiopia in 2021. After engaging in projects to support refugees from South Sudan and border management initiatives, since February 2022, I have served as the Head of the IOM Shire Sub-Office in the Tigray Region located in northern Ethiopia. The Tigray Region was under two-year-long armed clashes between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which started in 2020. As an official in charge of this region, I was responsible for securing shelter and providing daily necessities and other necessary services, such as water and health, to IDPs, with support from the Government of Japan and other donors. In August 2022, when the town of Shire, my duty station, became the scene of an armed clash, I stayed in Shire to ensure that humanitarian assistance could continue while protecting the safety of our office staff through coordinating with the military and police of the federal government in the region.

With the signing of the peace agreement in November 2022, a certain degree of stability returned to the region. Following this situation, IOM has shifted its focus from emergency assistance to reconstruction and peacebuilding support. In addition to working as the Head of the Sub-Office, I also belong to the IOM's Peace and Development Coordination Unit where I am responsible for a support program called "Durable Solutions." This program supports IDPs in rebuilding their lives over the medium- to long-term by providing them with different types of durable solutions depending on their situation, such as assisted return to their places of origin, local integration, or settlement in a third location.



The author (on the right) handing over relief supplies from Japan in Tigray Region (Photo: IOM)

\*1 Contributed by personnel at international organizations. Titles of individuals are as of the writing of the articles.

\*2 A state of not only being free of disease or disability but also being in complete physical, mental, and social well-being in all matters related to sexuality and reproduction.

\*3 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) "Global Trends Report 2022" <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>



## (2) Ensuring Safety and Stability in Society

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

As a State Party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), a legal framework for preventing transnational organized crime, Japan is promoting international cooperation that includes mutual legal assistance based on the Convention. Additionally, Japan is engaged in international efforts to combat transnational organized crime, including countermeasures against illicit drugs (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 35 for measures against threats to cyberspace).

For Japan, which depends on imports for a large part of its energy resources and food, ensuring marine traffic safety, including through addressing threats to maritime transport, is an issue that directly affects its existence and prosperity. A free and open maritime order based on the rule of law is extremely important not only for the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) promoted by Japan but also for the development of the entire region including Japan. Therefore, Japan cooperates with various countries and international organizations to promote efforts to ensure marine traffic safety and maritime security cooperation (see “ODA Topics” on page 42 regarding initiatives for the realization of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)).



An inspection of a police substation conducted during police training in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (Photo: JICA)

## Japan's Efforts

### ■ Enhancing the Capabilities of Security Authorities

Based on the track records and experiences of the Japanese police in international cooperation, they provide support for establishing systems, improving administrative capacities, and developing human resources, while transferring knowledge and skills to police agencies in developing countries, who play a key role in maintaining security.

As one example, in 2023, the National Police Agency (NPA) of Japan dispatched experts and provided training and technical cooperation projects to Indonesia, which continued from 2001, while receiving trainees from countries in Asia, Africa, and Oceania to show them how the Japanese police act.

### ■ Counter-Terrorism

The environment surrounding terrorism has changed greatly as a result of the spread of COVID-19. Although the restrictions on movement as a countermeasure against COVID-19 have reduced terrorism in urban areas, the increasing dependence of people on information and communication technology (ICT) facilitates the spread of extremism by extremist groups using the internet and social media. In some areas where the governing capacity of the nation was already vulnerable, the spread of COVID-19 has further degraded the governance and helped expand the scope of terrorist organizations' activities. Some have pointed out the possibility of a number of terrorist attacks as a result of the easing of movement restrictions that were a countermeasure against COVID-19.

In 2023, Japan has strengthened cooperation and information exchange with other countries in order to respond quickly to changes in the environment surrounding terrorism, through measures such as holding counter-terrorism dialogues with partner countries and hosting the G7 Rome-Lyon Group meeting in Japan as the G7 Presidency.

### ■ Countermeasures against Illicit Drugs

While actively participating in relevant international conferences such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) under the UN, Japan proactively makes efforts to combat illegal drugs as an issue to be tackled globally. In 2023, Japan provided financial contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to monitor the distribution of illicit drugs, including new compounds,<sup>42</sup> strengthen border control capabilities, and continuously survey the illegal cultivation of opium poppy, a raw material used in drug production, in cooperation with related organizations in Southeast Asian and other countries.

<sup>42</sup> New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Also known as “designer drugs.” These are substances that are produced synthetically to have effects similar to controlled drugs (narcotics, etc.). They are not recognized as legal medicines, and are compounds that exhibit unregulated psychotropic effects.



A workshop for problem analysis conducted under the “Project for Strengthening Crime Prevention Capacity of Bangladesh Police” (Photo: JICA)

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

### ■ Measures against Trafficking in Persons

Based on the “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children,” a comprehensive international agreement concerning trafficking in persons,<sup>43</sup> and Japan’s “2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” Japan is engaged in various efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons.

Japan provides support to foreign victims of trafficking who are sheltered in Japan, through its contribution to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), for their safe return to their home countries, and their independence and social rehabilitation through the provision of mental health and medical assistance and vocational training. Japan supports measures against trafficking in persons and efforts to strengthen the law enforcement capacity in Southeast Asia and other countries, through bilateral technical cooperation and financial contributions to projects delivered by UNODC and other UN agencies. Japan also cooperates in strengthening border control and taking measures against trafficking in persons as part of its support for Ukraine and Moldova, which have seen large numbers of refugees and displaced persons due to Russia’s aggression against Ukraine. In addition, Japan provides financial contributions to and participates in the Bali Process, an Asia-Pacific regional framework against people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and related transnational crime.

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

There is a high risk for the 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<sup>44</sup> and terrorist financing through intergovernmental frameworks such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).<sup>45</sup> In order to implement effective global measures against money laundering and terrorist financing, each country needs to properly implement the international standards in this field set by the FATF so as not to create loopholes in the measures. Assistance for countries and regions with insufficient capacity and resources to deal with money laundering and terrorist financing will contribute to the improvement of international measures to counter money laundering and terrorist financing. Therefore, Japan provides assistance for FATF-style Regional Bodies, which promote the effective implementation of the FATF standards in non-FATF member countries, with a particular focus on supporting activities such as technical assistance conducted by the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), an FATF-style Regional Body in the Asia-Pacific region.

### ■ The Seas

In order to establish and promote the rule of law at sea, Japan seamlessly supports the improvement of the law enforcement capacity of maritime security agencies in the Indo-Pacific region through the provision of patrol vessels and technical cooperation, while promoting cooperation for capacity building in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) among recipient countries. Specifically, Japan promotes human resources development through the training and dispatch of experts for maritime countries along the sea lanes important to Japan, including Indonesia and Malaysia, in addition to providing vessels and maritime security-related equipment to the Philippines, Viet Nam, and other countries. Furthermore, Japan supports Pacific Island countries, such as Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia, through providing patrol vessels and other equipment related to maritime security and safety to Pacific Island countries as well as supporting them through a grant aid project, “Project for Strengthening Capacity of Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies for Effective Maritime Crime Control in the Pacific Island Countries (UN Cooperation / UNODC Implementation).”

<sup>43</sup> The act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation, such as forced labor or prostitution (Article 3 (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children).

<sup>44</sup> 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.

<sup>45</sup> Established based on the Economic Declaration of the Arch Summit (G7 Summit) in 1989.

As an effort to promote regional cooperation in countering piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, Japan led the formulation of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and supports its activities. Since 2017, Japan has implemented its comprehensive training programs aimed at capacity building for maritime law enforcement agencies of the ReCAAP Contracting Parties. In 2023, 12 countries, including the ReCAAP Contracting Parties, Indonesia, and Malaysia, participated in this training program to share their best practices, which contributed to deepening the anti-piracy-related knowledge of the participating countries and to promoting cooperation among coastal countries.

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, from FY2009 to FY2019, Japan contributed a total of \$15.53 million to the Djibouti Code of Conduct Trust Fund, which was founded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to implement the Djibouti Code of Conduct.<sup>46</sup> This Trust Fund was used to establish information-sharing centers for anti-piracy measures and the Djibouti Regional Training Centre, where training programs to improve maritime security capacities in countries neighboring Somalia have been held.



Suppression training conducted under the “Project for Capacity Development of Djibouti Coast Guard Phase III” in Djibouti (Photo: Japan Coast Guard)

In cooperation with the Japan Coast Guard, Japan holds maritime law enforcement training courses on anti-piracy measures for Asia and off the coast of Somalia. In 2023, 17 maritime security officers from 13 countries in total participated in the courses. Recognizing that the reconstruction and stability of Somalia are essential for a fundamental solution to the piracy issue in the area, Japan has disbursed a total of \$579 million since 2007

for the restoration of basic social services, improvement of policing capabilities, and revitalization of domestic industries in Somalia.

Oil spillages 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. In March 2023, Japan dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Team to respond to the oil spill disaster caused by a small tanker that capsized and sank off the coast of Mindoro Island in the central Philippines (see Part III, Section 2 (4) on page 58 for the details of JDR).

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. The training program has produced 92 graduates from 49 countries by December 2022. The IHO and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) are engaged in a joint project to create the General Bathymetric Chart of Oceans (GEBCO), a topographical map of the world’s seafloor. The map is under revision through the cooperation of experts around the world, including the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of the Japan Coast Guard.

## ■ Outer Space

Japan contributes to addressing global issues, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, marine and fishery resource management, agriculture, forest conservation, as well as natural resources and energy, through the implementation of development cooperation and capacity building assistance utilizing space technology. Japan also proactively provides assistance in the field of human resources development for emerging countries in their efforts toward space development and utilization. In particular, Japan’s initiatives, such as providing opportunities to utilize the space environment and deploying CubeSats by utilizing Japanese Experiment Module “Kibo” on the International Space Station (ISS), are highly acclaimed in the international community. From June to December 2023, a new round for the application to the “KiboCUBE” program (the 8th round) was conducted.<sup>47</sup> As of 2023, the Central American Integration System (SICA), Mexico, and Tunisia, which were selected in the previous rounds, are developing CubeSats under the program.

Japan formulated a basic policy in 2016 to strategically and effectively provide all-Japan support for the capacity building of emerging space faring nations and has

<sup>46</sup> A regional cooperation framework for Somalia and its neighboring countries.

<sup>47</sup> A cooperation program 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.”





Project participants checking drone footage during a field survey using satellite and AI technology under the “Project for improving control of illegal deforestation through advanced SAR and AI technologies in the Brazilian Amazon” in Brazil (Photo: JICA)

actively supported such nations. For example, Japan is conducting forest monitoring in 78 countries in the regions of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, utilizing a tropical forest monitoring system (JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics: JJ-FAST) that uses satellite data from “ALOS-2.”

In order to contribute to the realization of the rule of law in outer space, Japan provides capacity building assistance to emerging space faring nations in the development and operation of domestic space-related laws. Since Japan began cooperating with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)’s “Space Law for New Space Actors Project” in FY2021, Japan has been providing assistance to emerging space faring nations in the Asia-Pacific region for the development and operation of domestic space-related laws and regulations. Japan also contributes to building the legal capacity needed to properly manage and supervise their space activities, including private-sector activities. In 2023, Japan conducted legal capacity building assistance for countries in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on supervision as well as licensing of space activities.

### (3) Technical Assistance for the Development of Legal and Judicial Systems and Assistance for Democratization

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

In such circumstances, corruption cases involving

public officials, such as bribery and embezzlement can also be a cause of impediments of the environment for fair competition and sound economic growth of developing countries. Therefore, it is necessary for donor countries to support good governance, including anti-corruption measures in developing countries to realize fair and stable societies.

It is also 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 that take proactive steps toward democratization in their efforts to move toward democratic systems, such as through assistance for holding fair and transparent elections, and assistance for the media in ensuring the citizens’ right to know and protecting freedom of expression.

### Japan’s Efforts

#### ■ Development of Legal and Judicial Systems

Japan actively provides assistance for the development of legal and judicial systems in order to establish the rule of law, realize good governance, promote and solidify democratization, and respect basic human rights in every country. Specifically, Japan provides assistance on legal and judicial system reform, drafting of laws and regulations, capacity development of national and local government officials for the operation and execution of legal systems, enhancement of internal audits, and establishment of civil codes, competition law, intellectual property law, taxation system, internal audit, and public investment systems in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. For instance, in Laos, as a result of Japan’s continuous support over more than 20 years for the development of legal and judicial systems, the country’s first civil code entered into force in May 2020, and support for the operation of the civil code continues to be provided, including the completion of the Commentary Book of the Civil Code in April 2023. In Indonesia, Japan promoted the preparation of a guidebook for judges outlining the contents of trademark and copyright laws, conducted training and seminars for judges in regional cities throughout the country, utilizing a collection of judgments (trademark cases edition) for judges dealing with intellectual property cases (published in 2022), and worked on the capacity building of legal practitioners in the country. Furthermore, Japan invited judges in the intellectual property field in May 2023, as well as government officials in charge of drafting and reviewing laws and regulations in September of the same year, for training to share Japan’s systems and experiences that could serve as a reference for the country.

Japan takes a leading role in the implementation of

the “Kyoto Declaration”<sup>48</sup> adopted at the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto Congress)<sup>49</sup> held in Kyoto in March 2021. Specifically, Japan promotes the efforts to realize the “Kyoto Declaration” by leading the formulation of the “UN Standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending” through using knowledge of reducing reoffending from Japanese public-private partnerships, and by regularly holding related forums, such as the “Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness” (Col-YF), which aims to empower youth who will lead the next generation, and the “Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific” (Crim-AP), an information-sharing platform for criminal justice practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region to further promote international cooperation to fight crime. In December 2022, the “2nd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness” was held. More than 100 youth from over 50 countries and regions participated and discussed the theme of “The Role of Youth in Achieving a Diverse and Inclusive Society.” In February 2023, the “2nd Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific” was held, where participants from 18 countries and 5 organizations engaged in a lively exchange of views. Furthermore, in July, in conjunction with the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers, Japan and the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) co-hosted the “ASEAN-Japan Special Youth Forum for Promoting the Rule of Law,” with the support of UNODC. More than 60 youth from Japan, ASEAN member states, and Timor-Leste gathered to discuss the theme of “Building Justice Literacy for Enhanced Access to Justice – the Key to the Rule of Law in the Digital Era –.”

With regard to capacity building assistance for national and local public officials to operate and enforce legal and judicial systems, Japan conducts international training courses, studies, and local seminars, specifically with the aim of strengthening the development of human resources, such as legal practitioners. In 2022, as in 2021, Japan conducted online training while the new entry of foreign nationals to Japan was restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But from autumn 2022 onwards, Japan gradually resumed face-to-face training domestically. Whether online or face-to-face, the training is conducted on topics such as drafting laws and legislation, improving operation of legal and judicial systems, and capacity building of relevant professionals, taking into account the needs of the above-mentioned countries, the latest national political situation, and the activities of international organizations such as the UN. The training was attended by legal practitioners

and lawmaking professionals, including justice ministry officials, judges, and prosecutors from these countries. Additionally, as travel restrictions in various countries were eased or lifted, Japan gradually resumed participating in face-to-face seminars and workshops held locally and conducted training on similar topics.

In order to proactively promote assistance aligned with the needs of developing countries, Japan works to implement effective assistance by conducting broad and basic studies regarding the legal systems of the countries, and their interpretations and operations. As one of the efforts, since April 2022, Japan regularly holds the “Asia-Pacific Real Estate Legislation Study Group” as a forum for conducting comparative research on real estate legal systems in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and the Philippines, and in October 2023, held the “11th Symposium on International Civil and Commercial Law.”

### ■ Assistance for Governance Including Anti-Corruption Measures

As a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and through its cooperation with UNODC, the secretariat of the Convention, Japan is actively engaged in developing legal systems concerning the prevention of corruption and law enforcement operations, as well as in providing capacity building assistance to justice and law enforcement agencies.

Through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI),<sup>50</sup> which is jointly operated by the Ministry of Justice of Japan and the UN, Japan conducts annual training programs and seminars for criminal justice practitioners in developing countries, such as in Asia and Africa, as part of legal technical cooperation and support for governance including anti-



The 25th UNCAC Training Programme (Photo: UNAFEI)

<sup>48</sup> An outcome document of the Kyoto Congress that provides medium- to long-term guidelines for the UN and UN Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

<sup>49</sup> The largest UN international conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, held once every five years. UNODC serves as the secretariat of the conference.

<sup>50</sup> 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 has produced over 6,300 graduates from 142 countries and regions since its establishment.

## Featured Project



### Conducting Elections during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Achieving both the Promotion of Participation in Politics and Infectious Disease Control

#### COVID-Resilient Elections in Timor-Leste Project

Contributions to Multilateral Institutions (March 2021 – July 2023)

Timor-Leste



Timor-Leste, one of the countries where democracy has taken deep roots in Southeast Asia, has actively promoted the participation of its people in politics since the restoration of independence in 2002. However, in the 2022 presidential election and the 2023 parliamentary election, which were to be held while COVID-19 was not yet under control, there were concerns about whether infectious disease countermeasures could be sufficiently taken under the country's fragile medical system.

In response to the situation, Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), strengthened the country's resilience to infectious diseases in order to support the country in achieving equal, direct, and active participation in politics during the spread of COVID-19. In providing cooperation, consideration was given to promote the participation in politics of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, for the realization of an inclusive society.

In this cooperation, Japan supported the installation of handwashing stations in 13 regional offices of the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration and the National Commission on Elections. In addition, Japan prepared emergency



A staff member at a polling place implementing infectious disease countermeasures for citizens who came to vote in the 2022 presidential election (Photo: UNDP)



A UNDP Japanese staff member working with sign language interpreters to support the dissemination of electoral information to persons with disabilities (Photo: UNDP)

response manuals, provided personal protective equipment, and conducted training for staff on infectious disease countermeasures. Furthermore, toward the realization of inclusive elections, Japan also supported the installation of facilities for persons with disabilities, such as ramps and accessible restrooms. Through dissemination of election information toward women, youth, and persons with disabilities, Japan promoted broader participation of people in politics.

At polling places on election day, face masks were distributed, and body temperature checks and hand sanitization were thoroughly conducted. There were no reports of COVID-19 infections during the election. Improvements to the facilities of election administrative institutions ensured that voters felt safe and satisfied, which led to participation in politics. Despite the spread of COVID-19, the voter turnout in the presidential election was as high as 77.26% and in the parliamentary elections in the following year it was 79.28%, with female voter turnout exceeding 80%, the highest ever.

Japan will continue to support Timor-Leste in achieving sustainable development and building a healthy democratic society.

corruption measures.

As an example of a specific initiative, Japan has annually held a training course to support the criminal justice for anti-corruption since 1998, except for the year when it was canceled due to the spread of COVID-19. The training course is held 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. In November 2023, the 25th UNCAC Training Programme on the main theme of "Effective Corruption Investigation Utilizing International Cooperation" was held. A total of 30 criminal justice practitioners from 25 countries participated in the training, including 5 participants from Ukraine.

Furthermore, Japan has held a seminar titled "Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries (GG Seminar)" every fiscal year since 2007, except for the year when it was canceled due to the

spread of COVID-19, 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. In December 2023, the 17th GG Seminar on the theme of "Protecting



The 17th GG Seminar (Photo: UNAFEI)



Judges, Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Officials from Undue Interference Including Bribery” was held face-to-face in Japan. It was attended by 19 criminal justice practitioners from 10 countries, namely 9 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and Timor-Leste.

UNAFEI’s activities are not limited to anti-corruption efforts, but also address important issues related to crime prevention and criminal justice in the international community. UNAFEI responds to the changing global society by holding training programs and seminars on these topics to criminal justice practitioners widely in developing countries around the world. For example, in 2023, various seminars and training were held face-to-face: the 180th International Senior Seminar on the theme of “Promoting Legal Aid for Offenders and Victims” was held from January to February, the 181st International Training Course on the theme of “Countermeasures against Transnational Organized Crime” from May to June, and the 182nd International Training Course on the theme of “Effective Support for Reintegration of Released Inmates – Toward Seamless Support for Employment, Housing and Medical Care” from September to October.

#### ■ Assistance for Democratization

In Kosovo, Japan has implemented the “Project for Capacity Development of Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK)” since January 2015 to deliver accurate, neutral, and fair broadcasting to all citizens. In order to improve the accuracy of reporting in multiethnic areas, Japan provides assistance for preparations of the opening of branch offices in ethnic minority areas and mixed ethnic areas, and for the capacity enhancement of program production staff through on-the-job training and workshops by JICA experts. These activities contribute to the broadcasting of fair and impartial programs to all citizens, including ethnic minorities.



Rescue teams working in the areas affected by the earthquake in Türkiye (Photo: JICA)

## (4) Humanitarian Assistance during Natural Disasters

In recent years, due in part to the impact of climate change, the frequency of short-term and localized abnormal torrential rainfall increases worldwide, and the damage caused by floods and landslides also tends to be more intense and frequent. Since developing countries have fragile economic and social infrastructures, many of them suffer great damage from disasters and require assistance from the international community.

In the event of a large-scale disaster overseas, Japan stands ready for the immediate provision of emergency assistance upon the request of the government of affected countries or international organizations. Japan offers several forms of assistance, such as the deployment of disaster relief personnel, in-kind assistance, and financial assistance. Japan provides either one or a combination of these forms of assistance considering the scale of the disaster and the request from the affected country or international organization.

### Japan's Efforts

There are five types of Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams that provide humanitarian assistance: (i) Urban Search and Rescue Team, (ii) Medical Team, (iii) Infectious Diseases Response Team, (iv) Expert Team (to provide technical advice or instructions on emergency disaster mitigation measures and recovery activities), and (v) Self-Defense Force Unit (to undertake medical activities and/or transportation of aid supplies and personnel when it is deemed particularly necessary). These teams are dispatched either individually or in combination.

Emergency relief goods are provided as in-kind assistance. Japan stockpiles, in three overseas warehouses managed by JICA, tents, blankets, and other supplies needed and to be provided for the affected people swiftly in the wake of a disaster.

As financial assistance, Japan provides Emergency Grant Aid to the governments of countries affected by



Emergency relief goods arriving at Damascus Airport (Syria)



Medical team performing pre-surgery procedures in the areas affected by the earthquake in Türkiye (Photo: JICA)

natural disasters and/or conflict, and to international organizations that provide emergency assistance in affected areas for the purpose of providing relief to victims, refugees and displaced persons of natural disasters and conflicts overseas, and others.

In 2023, Japan supported emergency rescue operations in response to the earthquake that occurred in the southeastern part of Türkiye in February immediately after the disaster. While swiftly providing emergency relief goods to Türkiye and Syria through JICA, Japan dispatched rescue, medical, and expert teams to Türkiye to conduct search and rescue operations and provide medical assistance. Japan also inspected the condition of buildings and infrastructure damaged by the earthquake and provided technical advice on recovery and reconstruction. Additionally, Japan rapidly transported materials and equipment for the medical team to the site using a Japan Self-Defense Force aircraft, as well as approximately 89.5 tons of disaster relief supplies including tents located in Pakistan to Türkiye, in coordination and cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). On top of that, Japan provides assistance for recovery and reconstruction in Türkiye by Emergency Grant Aid of \$6 million through international organizations and \$2.5 million through Japanese NGOs, as well as grant aid (¥5 billion), loans

(¥80 billion), and technical cooperation, making use of Japan's expertise (see "Stories from the Field" on page 60 for Japan's efforts on disaster risk reduction in Türkiye to date).

Furthermore, in March 2023, Japan dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Team to respond to the oil spill disaster caused by a small tanker that capsized and sank off the coast of Mindoro Island in the central Philippines. In September, Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid in response to the earthquake disaster that struck the central region of Morocco and the flood disaster in the eastern part of Libya, and also provided emergency relief goods to nine countries.<sup>51</sup>

Japanese NGOs also provide various forms of assistance to disaster victims utilizing ODA. They often work as a partner with international organizations and others in emergency relief activities. Japan Platform (JPF)<sup>52</sup> provides humanitarian assistance to refugees, displaced persons, people affected by conflicts and/or natural disasters, and others. The NGOs affiliated with JPF provide various forms of support to meet the local needs in regions where local government assistance is not readily available, such as Morocco (earthquake), Afghanistan (earthquake), Pakistan (flood), Ukraine (conflict), and other regions (see page 133, Part V, Section 1 (3)).

Disaster response is a common challenge for Japan and ASEAN countries, both of which are prone to natural disasters. Japan has supported the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), which was established in 2011, and has contributed to strengthening its capacity. In 2023, Japan continued to support the establishment of the Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA) to quickly transport emergency relief items to affected countries and the provision of assistance through this system. Japan also provided human resources development for the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), which conducts emergency assessments of the damage, and for potential leaders of the National Disaster Management Organizations in ASEAN countries.

<sup>51</sup> The nine countries are Afghanistan, Chile, Iran, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Syria, Türkiye, and Vanuatu.

<sup>52</sup> See the glossary on page 137.

## Japan's Efforts on Disaster Risk Reduction Education in Türkiye, an Earthquake-Prone Country

### – Spreading Knowledge through the Turkish Version of “Bosai Koshien” –



Türkiye has many active fault lines, and like Japan, it is one of the most earthquake-prone countries in the world. Türkiye has experienced large-scale earthquakes in 2011 and 2020, in addition to the Izmit earthquake in August 1999 with its epicenter in northwestern Türkiye, and the Düzce earthquake in November of the same year. In February 2023, an earthquake centered in southeastern Türkiye caused severe damage, claiming nearly 50,000 casualties. Densely populated areas including Istanbul, the center of economic development, are said to be at great risk, and further efforts are required for disaster risk reduction.

Japan, also a disaster-prone country, has utilized its experience and knowledge to provide Türkiye with yen loans to contribute to strengthening seismic reinforcement and earthquake reconstruction, promote joint research on seismic observation and earthquake engineering, and provide technical cooperation to formulate disaster risk reduction plans and improve disaster risk management capabilities. After the 1999 Izmit earthquake, efforts were put into disaster risk reduction education, and the “School-Based Disaster Education Project” was implemented in two phases from 2010 to 2014 and from 2017 to 2020. In Phase 1, Japan targeted 80 basic schools in 10 provinces with large economic scales and conducted disaster risk reduction training with three teachers from each school as master teachers. In Phase 2, activities to disseminate and expand the disaster education were carried out nationwide. Dr. Emin Özdamar, a former staff engaged in the disaster risk reduction education at the JICA Türkiye Office and currently the Vice-Chairman at the Turkish Japanese Foundation, looks back at their initial efforts and says, “With the cooperation of Hyogo Prefecture, an area affected by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, we compared Hyogo Prefecture’s educational curriculum with Türkiye’s curriculum and incorporated parts that could be applied to Türkiye. We also worked with teachers to come up with a game so that children could learn disaster risk reduction knowledge while having fun. In addition, we worked to help children acquire knowledge naturally without being bound by the framework of disaster risk reduction, such as by incorporating disaster risk reduction content into math and other courses.”

Since the implementation of the project, master teachers who have completed their training have passed on their disaster risk reduction knowledge to teachers at other schools, trying to create an environment in which each school has at least one teacher with disaster risk reduction knowledge. Regarding the ripple effects of disaster risk reduction education, Dr. Özdamar says, “When we provide disaster risk reduction education to children, they pass on that knowledge to their families and classmates.



School-Based Disaster Education Project (Photo: JICA)

Basic knowledge, such as placing beds in safe places and securing furniture, is being shared by trained teachers with children and their families. During the earthquake in February 2023, some teachers and students did what they had learned and crouched next to their beds to protect themselves.”

From 2021, the Turkish-Japanese Foundation Culture Center and JICA co-host the “Disaster Education Materials Development Contest” (the Turkish version of “Bosai Koshien”<sup>\*1</sup>) in order to ensure the continuing effects of the School-Based Disaster Education Project. “When I visited Miyagi Prefectural Tagajo High School, where the Disaster Science Course was established, I learned about ‘Bosai Koshien.’ In order to spread the achievements of the School-Based Disaster Education Project, I thought we would need to involve young people, so we took action to hold a Turkish version of ‘Bosai Koshien.’” says Dr. Özdamar. The first competition was held for teachers, and the organizers received 40 entries from 21 provinces. The target audience was later expanded to include students, and in 2023, 156 applications were received from 29 provinces, including tabletop games related to disaster risk reduction and disaster risk reduction simulation devices using models. In addition, in the university student category, there were 86 projects from universities with departments related to disaster risk reduction.



Award ceremony for the Turkish version of “Bosai Koshien” (The person on the right in the photo is Dr. Özdamar) (Photo: JICA)

However, even if people in Türkiye receive disaster risk reduction education, if they do not comply with building standards and strengthen the ground, the effectiveness of the education will be halved. Chief Representative of JICA Türkiye Office Ms. TANAKA Yuko describes the prospects as follows. “In response to the earthquake damage in February 2023, we are also reviewing disaster risk reduction cooperation in Türkiye based on the recommendations of the expert team. We will continue to cooperate in building cities that are resilient to disasters, using the disaster-stricken cities as model cities.”

Currently, through a student exchange project connecting high schools in Hyogo and Miyagi Prefectures with Turkish students, young people learn about each other’s experiences in disaster-affected areas. It is expected that the achievements of Japan in the field of disaster risk reduction will be further utilized for disaster risk reduction in Türkiye.

<sup>\*1</sup> This nationwide competition honors children and students who are engaged in disaster risk reduction education and activities in their schools and local communities in order to pass on the experiences and lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that occurred on January 17, 1995, to the future. It is held every year by the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute (Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution), based in Kobe City.



## 3

## Leading International Efforts to Addressing Increasingly Complex and Serious Global Issues

**(1) Climate Change and the Environment**

Global environmental issues, including climate change are addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in the wake of extreme weather events and devastating natural disasters in recent years, they are critical and time-sensitive issues that the international community must work together on. The Leaders' Communiqué of the G7 Hiroshima Summit, held under Japan's Presidency in 2023, also noted climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as the triple global crisis facing our planet. Japan has vigorously worked on addressing these issues and provided assistance to developing countries, as one of the top donors, through the Global Environment Facility (GEF),\* a financing mechanism for major multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**Japan's Efforts****■ Climate Change**

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

In October 2020, Japan declared that it would achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. In April 2021, Japan also declared its aim to reduce its GHG emissions by 46% in FY2030 from its FY2013 levels, and to continue strenuous efforts in its challenge to meet the lofty goal of cutting its emissions by 50%. In October 2021, Japan submitted its "Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)" <sup>53</sup> reflecting these goals, together with "The Long-term Strategy under the Paris Agreement" to the UN.

At the G7 Cornwall Summit in June 2021, Japan announced a total of ¥6.5 trillion in assistance from both

public and private sources over five years from 2021 to 2025. Furthermore, at COP26 held in the same year, Japan announced that it would provide up to an additional \$10 billion from both public and private sources, including by doubling the finance for adaptation to ¥1.6 trillion over the five years.

**(COP28)**

COP28 was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 30 to December 13, 2023. At COP28, decisions were adopted including on the first Global Stocktake, which assesses the world's collective progress toward achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement, including the 1.5°C goal, <sup>54</sup> and the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. Additionally, Prime Minister Kishida participated in the "World Climate Action Summit," held from December 1 to 2 during COP28, where he called for all countries to work together to achieve the common goal of net zero emissions through various pathways.



Japanese UNDP officer attending the commemoration ceremony of a locally assembled flatpack modular tank installed through the Addressing Climate Vulnerability in the Water Sector Project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in Majuro Atoll (Rongrong Island) in the Marshall Islands (Photo: UNDP)

**(Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP))**

The "Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)," which was launched at COP26 by France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU to support South Africa, expanded its target countries to India, Indonesia, Viet Nam, and Senegal at the G7 Elmau Summit in June 2022. Japan, together with the United States, has proceeded discussions as a co-lead country

<sup>53</sup> Parties set their GHG emission reduction targets and formulate measures to achieve them as National Determined Contribution (NDC). It will then be submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat.

<sup>54</sup> A goal set to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level.

of the Indonesia JETP. On November 15, 2022, partner countries, including Japan and the United States, and Indonesia concurred and issued the “Joint Statement on the Indonesia JETP,” which supports Indonesia’s efforts in the transition from coal to renewable energy. In addition, on December 14, 2022, the International Partners Group including Japan, and Viet Nam agreed on the “Political Declaration on establishing the JETP with Viet Nam.”

### (Green Climate Fund (GCF))

Regarding multilateral support, Japan supports developing countries through its contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF),\* the world’s largest multilateral climate fund. Japan has contributed a total of up to approximately ¥319 billion to the fund to date. In addition, for the second replenishment period from 2024 to 2027, Japan has announced its intention to contribute up to ¥165 billion, the same amount as the first replenishment. At the GCF, a total of 243 projects have been approved and implemented by December 2023, which in total are expected to reduce GHG emissions by 3 billion tons and increase the resilience of 1 billion people through support for adaptation. Additionally, from Japan, JICA, MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation are approved as “Accredited Entities” that are entitled to propose GCF projects. To date, three projects by MUFG Bank, Ltd. have been approved; a sustainable forestry project in seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (March 2020), an assistance on climate bond issuance project in developing countries (October 2022), and a blended finance project to support mitigation and adaptation in 19 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean (October 2023), along with two projects by JICA; Community-based Landscape Management for Enhanced Climate Resilience and Reduction of Deforestation in Critical Watersheds in Timor-Leste (March 2021) and Building Climate Resilient and Safer Islands in the Maldives (July 2021).

### (Bilateral Assistance)

As a specific example of bilateral assistance, Japan dispatches experts on actions on climate change to the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa, which Japan supported the construction of through grant aid. Through this Centre, Japan strives to develop human resources in the Pacific Island countries vulnerable to climate change. This support is expected to improve the capacity to properly predict weather disasters, which will widely benefit more than 10 million people in 14 Pacific Island countries. In addition, in cooperation with UNDP, Japan supports green transformation (GX) in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.



The Pacific Climate Change Centre, which Japan supported the construction of through grant aid in Samoa (Photo: JICA)

In relation to the African region, at TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan launched the “Green Growth Initiative with Africa (GGA)” with the goal of addressing climate change and transforming the energy structure toward decarbonization. Under this initiative, Japan aims to maximize its cooperation through three concepts; (i) ownership and co-creation, (ii) flexible finance mobilization, and (iii) collaboration with diverse partners, and promotes various efforts to contribute to the sustainable growth in Africa.

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

In his Policy Speech in 2022, Prime Minister Kishida announced the “Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC)” concept as a platform to aim for decarbonization in Asia. In March 2023, Japan held the AZEC Ministerial Meeting with the invitation of ASEAN countries and Australia, and AZEC was launched as a cooperation framework. Prime Minister Kishida held the first AZEC Leaders Meeting in December, where the leaders shared the major goal of carbon neutrality while confirming that they would respect various pathways to achieving the goal and would simultaneously achieve decarbonization, economic growth, and energy security. He also emphasized that Japan would continue to contribute to achieving decarbonization in Asia and global sustainable growth together with partner countries<sup>55</sup> through activities under the AZEC platform.

### (Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM))

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

<sup>55</sup> AZEC partner countries are Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.

efforts. In 2013, Japan signed the first Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on the implementation of the JCM with Mongolia. Since then, by 2022, Japan has established the JCM with 25 countries, and in 2023, it signed new MOCs with three countries. As of the end of 2023, the JCM credits have been issued from 68 energy-saving and renewable energy projects in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Maldives, Palau, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya. These JCM projects contribute to GHG emission reductions worldwide.

Japan will continue to lead the international community toward the realization of a decarbonized society, which is the goal of the Paris Agreement.

### ■ Mainstreaming Biodiversity

In recent years, expansion of human activities in scope, scale, and types has given rise to serious concerns about further degradation of habitats and the destruction of the ecosystem. Japan values biodiversity efforts, as seen in its initiative to hold the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)\* (COP10) in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture in 2010. In addition, Japan makes contributions to the Japan Biodiversity Fund<sup>56</sup> to support the capacity building of developing countries. In December 2022, the second part of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) was held in Montreal, Canada, and the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” was adopted as the new global goals and targets. Japan will continue to contribute in this field, aiming to realize the 2030 mission that is “to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery” and the 2050 Vision of “living in harmony with nature,” described in the framework. In light of the results of COP15, the Parties are requested revise or update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Japan is one of the first countries to begin considering updating its NBSAP, and in March 2023, the Cabinet decided on the “National Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2030.”

Illegal trade of wildlife has also become an increasingly serious issue. The international community pays attention to this issue, as it has been one of the funding sources of international terrorist organizations. Japan has been actively contributing to the discussions at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and has been working on resolving the issue in cooperation with the international community through the contribution to projects implemented by the CITES Secretariat. As a specific initiative, Japan supports the construction of facilities

and other measures to combat elephant poaching, mainly in Africa.

### ■ Conservation of the Marine Environment

The importance of addressing the problem of marine plastic litter has grown in recent years as an urgent challenge, with concerns of an adverse impact on the marine ecosystem, tourism, fisheries, and human health. As of December 2023, 87 countries and regions have shared the “Osaka Blue Ocean Vision,” an initiative led by Japan at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019 that aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. In order to realize the Vision, Japan launched the “MARINE Initiative” that focuses on (i) Management of wastes, (ii) Recovery of marine litter, (iii) Innovation, and (iv) Empowerment. Under the Initiative, Japan supports capacity building and infrastructure development for waste management in developing countries in order to promote effective measures against marine plastic litter worldwide.

In September 2023, Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended the Fifth Meeting of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and stated that Japan would promote its excellent efforts, such as those related to blue carbon,<sup>57</sup> as the “Japanese Model” and that Japan hoped to share with many other countries the ambition to reduce additional plastic pollution to zero by 2040, which was committed at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May (see page 8 of Part I, Section 2 for details). She also stated that Japan would continue to be actively involved in the negotiations in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process to develop a legally binding international instrument (a treaty) on plastic pollution in order to realize an effective and progressive treaty in which many countries would participate.



Inspecting the coastline of the Gulf of Thailand under the technical cooperation, the “Project for Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas” in Thailand (Photo: JICA)

<sup>56</sup> Established in the Secretariat of the CBD by Japan during its COP10 Presidency with the aim of building capacities in developing countries.

<sup>57</sup> Carbon that is captured by living organisms in coastal and ocean ecosystems, accumulates in the soil, and sinks to the seafloor.



Japan supports countermeasures against marine plastic litter in the field of marine environmental conservation. As part of technical cooperation, such as dispatching experts to developing countries and accepting trainees from developing countries through JICA, in 2023 Japan implemented a Knowledge Co-Creation Program for Group and Region Focus “Waste Management towards Control of Marine Litter.”

As part of expanded assistance for ASEAN to address marine plastic litter issues, which was announced at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2018, Japan provides capacity building support and conducts awareness-raising and PR activities for environmental conservation, primarily on reducing marine plastic litter in ASEAN countries since 2019. In 2023, through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF),<sup>58</sup> Japan provided assistance to strengthen capacity for marine debris reduction through the formulation of national action plans in ASEAN countries and to promote a plastic circular society in the ASEAN region. In addition, Japan also provided support to strengthen capacity development of local governments in ASEAN countries to tackle microplastics and water pollution, and to build capacity for monitoring and reducing marine debris from fisheries.

Japan supports marine plastic litter countermeasures through the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) especially in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Pacific Island countries. In response to the worsening marine pollution caused by plastic waste, starting in 2018, UNEP developed a method for monitoring the flow of plastic waste into the ocean. In addition, to enable science-based policymaking, UNEP conducts sampling surveys of plastic litter and scientific analysis on its pathways and formulates policy recommendations and guidelines based on the results. Furthermore, in collaboration with a Japanese IT company, a plastic leakage hotspot map was created, identifying over 3,000 leakage points (hotspots), and released on a dedicated website<sup>59</sup> available to the general public.

#### ■ Protection of Forests and Water Resources

Among forest resources, tropical forests account for approximately half of the world's forests and play an important role in tackling climate change and conserving biodiversity. Japan invited the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to establish its headquarters in Yokohama, and has supported sustainable management of tropical forests as well as legal and sustainable tropical timber trade through the organization for more than 30 years. Through voluntary contributions to ITTO, the Government of Japan provides support for tropical timber-producing countries, such as conducting on-site testing in Panama in 2023 for the



Soil surveys in areas affected by forest fires in Peru under the “Project for Establishment of Integrated Forest Management System Model for Conservation of Mountain Forest Ecosystems in the Andean-Amazon” (Photo: MIYAMOTO Kazuki)

introduction of technology owned by the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute of Japan to identify the geographic origin of timber.

Regarding the conservation of marine living resources, Japan conducts training and workshops on countermeasures against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the ASEAN region through JICA in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). Curbing the impact on fish ecosystems affected by IUU fishing that exceeds regulatory thresholds leads to supporting the sustainability of the fishing industry, one of the core industries for ASEAN countries, and the sustainable development of fishing communities.

#### ■ Environmental Pollution Control Measures

In developing countries, regulatory controls on hazardous chemical materials are often not in place, which sometimes lead to environmental pollution and health damage. Japan possesses accumulated knowledge, experience, and technology related to environmental pollution control measures and utilizes them to solve environmental pollution problems in developing countries. Japan also conducts technical cooperation, such as dispatching experts to and accepting trainees from developing countries, in the areas of environmental management techniques in the chemical industry, analysis techniques and risk evaluation for environmentally hazardous substances, and chemical trace analysis techniques.

The “Minamata Convention on Mercury” was adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013) and entered into force in August 2017. Japan exercises continuous leadership in promoting the management of global mercury pollution

<sup>58</sup> See 4 on page 91.

<sup>59</sup> “Mobile Application for Macro Plastic Survey” <https://arcg.is/1DOOWW>

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. In addition to conducting training to support Nepal and other countries in ratifying the convention, Japan conducted surveys in Indonesia and other countries to promote the international expansion of Japan's excellent mercury management technology. Furthermore, from 2019, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) as an implementing agency has been conducting the "Project for Promoting Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences," with Japan's contribution. Through this project, Japan supports member states in improving the quantity and quality of domestic mercury-related information and developing a platform to implement mercury management in line with the Convention. The project utilizes the resources in and around Minamata City and technology possessed by Japanese institutions to design a comprehensive program to strengthen implementation capacity.

In the field of waste management, based on the "MARINE Initiative," Japan announced to develop 10,000 officials engaging in waste management around the world by 2025 and trained approximately 20,000 officials by FY2022 through various means such as training programs.

Moreover, as a model project for waste management support in Africa under the "African Clean Cities



Inspection of the operation status of waste collection vehicles under the technical cooperation "Clean Cities Project in Sudan" (Photo: Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.)

Platform (ACCP),"\* Japan provides support for the Hulene final landfill site in Mozambique. At TICAD 8 held in August 2022, Japan announced that, under the ACCP, it would promote decarbonization and recycling in the waste sector, and improve public health including through waste management that benefits 30 million people in Africa, as well as to implement human resources development for 1,000 people. In Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar, a project is underway to improve equipment related to the collection, transportation, and final disposal of waste, with the aim of enhancing the city's waste management capacity (see "Master Techniques from Japan to the World" on page 66 for waste management support utilizing the Fukuoka Method in Ethiopia).

## Waste Management in Ethiopia Improved with Landfill Technology from Fukuoka – Working with Local People –



In Ethiopia, the amount of garbage has increased in recent years due to the rapid urban population growth and changing lifestyles, but the development of solid waste disposal facilities has not kept pace, making waste management a major issue. Notably, the Koshe dump site, Ethiopia's largest dump site for garbage in Addis Ababa, the capital city of the country, was in urgent need of finding a solution after an accident in 2017 when the garbage that had been piled up to a height of 50 meters collapsed and more than 200 people lost their lives.

In response to this accident, in 2018, through the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Japan provided emergency technical support to improve the Koshe dump site, by implementing the "Fukuoka Method," a Japanese landfill technology with a proven track record in solid waste management.

The "semi-aerobic landfill type" is a landfill technology known as the "Fukuoka Method," which is an environmentally conscious landfill technology originally designed in Japan. It was jointly developed by Fukuoka City and Fukuoka University in Japan in the 1970s, and was devised and put into practice by Professors Emeritus Dr. HANASHIMA Masataka and Dr. MATSUFUJI Yasushi at Fukuoka University. This technology facilitates the inflow of outside air via leachate collection pipes installed at the bottom of the landfill so that the decomposition of landfilled waste is accelerated by activating microorganisms in the waste layer. This technology also purifies leachate and inhibits the emission of methane gas, one of the greenhouse gases. Another feature is that it can be introduced at a low cost by using local materials such as bamboo and oil drums.

Dr. Matsufuji speaks from his own experience that to introduce the Fukuoka Method in landfills where there is neither heavy machinery nor tools available, and where there are people who make their living by picking up waste (waste pickers), just passing on the technology will not work.



Three Japanese experts who gave on-site technical assistance and the waste pickers who worked together with them (Third from the left (back row): Professor Emeritus Matsufuji) (Photo: UN-Habitat)

Therefore, Dr. Matsufuji himself visits the dump site facilities and provides technical assistance to introduce the method while gaining the cooperation of waste pickers. "Waste pickers, who are frowned upon by the public, are our partners who contribute to the separation and reduction of waste, if you look at them from another perspective. Through the cooperation of waste pickers, the introduction of the Fukuoka Method will be accelerated. At the same time, it makes the dump site safer and their work easier. As we work together and improve the dump site, they become gentler and more cooperative," he says.

Following its success in Addis Ababa, calls for the introduction of waste management through the Fukuoka Method increased, not only from within Ethiopia but also from 21 other countries. In Ethiopia, a project was started in Bahir Dar City in 2019 and also in Hawassa City since 2021 as part of the "African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)"<sup>\*1</sup> initiative.

Dr. Matsufuji receives requests for cooperation in improving landfill facilities from many countries. Regarding the future expansion of the method to other countries, he says, "There are dozens of landfill facilities in a single country, and the budget is limited. Since it is difficult for me to visit every facility myself, I would like to focus more on developing human resources who can convey the correct techniques and knowledge, hoping to widely spread the Fukuoka Method." Currently, plans are underway under Dr. Matsufuji's leadership to establish regional training centers that will utilize both onsite and online training in areas such as Southeast Asia, South America, and Africa. It is hoped that Japanese technology will lead to improvements in sanitary landfill facilities in these regions.



The Koshe dump site in Addis Ababa improved using the Fukuoka Method (Photo: UN-Habitat)

<sup>\*1</sup> See the glossary on page 67.





## 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. Having been established in 1991, 186 countries including Japan participate (as of December 2023). The World Bank manages the contributions from member countries. Through 18 implementing agencies including MDBs (World Bank, ADB, etc.) and UN organizations (UNDP, UNEP, etc.), it assists developing countries under five focal areas, namely biodiversity loss, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste. It is designated as the financing mechanism to the UNFCCC, CBD, UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

### Green Climate Fund (GCF)

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

### Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

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

### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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

### African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)

Established in 2017 by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, together with JICA, the City of Yokohama, UNEP, and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) aiming to share knowledge on waste management and promote the achievement of the SDGs in Africa. 173 cities in 46 countries in Africa have joined the Platform, holding plenary sessions, creating various guidelines and educational materials, planning study tours, and more.

## (2) Health and Medical Care

SDG 3 aims to “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.” In addition, achieving universal health coverage (UHC) <sup>60</sup> is positioned as an important global target in order to respond to various health issues, diversified across countries and regions. On the other hand, at present, it is estimated that at least half of the world's population has no access to basic medical care, and that over 5 million <sup>61</sup> children under the age of five die annually due to preventable diseases. Approximately 287,000 women <sup>62</sup> die during and following pregnancy and childbirth per year, primarily due to the lack of emergency obstetric care provided by obstetricians, gynecologists, and/or midwives. Moreover, COVID-19 has had a wide range of effects on everyone on earth. It has also exposed various vulnerabilities, including those related to vaccine distribution, in the current global health architecture (GHA), which comprises the governance and finance for addressing global health and medical issues.

In light of various changes in the global situation, such as the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Japan formulated the “Global Health Strategy” in May 2022.

The goal of the Strategy is (i) to contribute to developing GHA for international health security and strengthening Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR) for public health emergencies including pandemics, and (ii) to achieve more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC required for the post-COVID-19 era in order to embody human security. Japan promotes initiatives based on this Strategy.



A birth attendant who took part in capacity building training conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with funding from Japan providing postnatal checkup (Photo: UNFPA)

<sup>60</sup> The concept that all people have access to effective and quality-assured health services at affordable costs without financial hardship.

<sup>61</sup> According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) survey (as of 2021).

<sup>62</sup> According to the World Health Organization (WHO) survey (as of 2020).

## Japan's Efforts

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

Based on the experience and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response, the international community's interest in strengthening PPR for future health crises is higher than ever.

Japan has provided financial contributions to the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Health Emergencies Programme,\* the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE),\* and other relevant programmes to support WHO's response to health crises. These contributions were also used to respond to the acute phase of COVID-19. In addition, Japan announced a cumulative contribution of \$70 million as a founding financial member to the Pandemic Fund, which was established in 2022 and is hosted by the World Bank. Japan also provides assistance for strengthening capacities in preparedness and responses against infectious diseases in developing countries, through an additional contribution to the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HEPRTF), which Japan launched in cooperation with the World Bank Group.

In 2023, Japan, as the G7 Presidency, made a significant contribution to strengthening PPR. As an outcome of the discussions at the G7 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting held in May, the Meeting compiled the "G7 Shared Understanding on Enhanced Finance-Health Coordination and PPR Financing," and in light of the experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, reaffirmed the need to further enhance coordination between finance and health authorities. In addition, the G7 agreed to work with the G20 and others to consider a framework for "surge financing" that would quickly and efficiently provide funds necessary for responding to pandemic outbreaks.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit that followed in the same month, the G7 leaders committed to enhancing political momentum toward leadership-level governance and strengthening international norms and regulations. In addition, in order to improve equitable access to medical countermeasures (MCMs) including vaccines worldwide, the G7 leaders announced the "G7 Hiroshima Vision for Equitable Access to Medical Countermeasures," and launched the "MCM Delivery Partnership for Equitable Access (MCDP)," to promote related initiatives. They also endorsed the "Impact Investment Initiative (Triple I) for Global Health," which aims to mobilize private financial resources through impact investment to solve health issues.

In September, Prime Minister Kishida attended the

"G7 Health Follow-up Side Event" held on the occasion of the UN General Assembly. At the event, Prime Minister Kishida mentioned that to ensure smooth financing it is necessary to expand the mobilization of domestic financial resources in each country and accelerate international cooperation and mobilization of private financial resources. He also announced the launch of Japan's new yen loan program, which, in tandem with technical cooperation, would provide increased support for borrower countries aligned with their efforts to strengthen prevention and preparedness, and will promptly supply financial resources necessary to respond to a pandemic. Furthermore, to facilitate private financing, Prime Minister Kishida announced the launch of the Triple I, which was endorsed at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, and called for further participation in the Triple I initiative by companies and organizations in each country.

Japan also actively contributes to rulemaking in the international arena. In February 2022, under WHO, the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) on a "WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) (WHO CA+)" (the so-called "Pandemic Agreement") was held, and negotiations are ongoing as of the end of 2023. One Japanese delegate was elected as a vice-chair of the INB, and Japan contributes to the progress of the negotiations as a member state. Japan also actively contributes to the discussions on the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR),<sup>63</sup> which are taking place concurrently.

### ■ Promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

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

Japan has heretofore provided support for the health and medical care systems in countries in Southeast Asia and Africa based on the view that building a sustainable and resilient health system will serve as the foundation for controlling infectious diseases. In addition, based on various lessons learned from pandemics such as COVID-19, Japan works to strengthen health systems including the development and networking of core medical facilities and support for human resources development in the medical field. For example, in August 2023, Japan and Madagascar exchanged notes regarding Japan's support for the improvement of medical equipment in regional referral hospitals in Madagascar through grant aid, with

<sup>63</sup> International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR): Health regulations established by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the aim of preventing the international spread of diseases to the greatest extent possible.

## ODA Topics



## Human Security

Human security is a concept that focuses on each and every human being, and advances nation and community building through the empowerment and protection of individuals to live happily, in dignity, and free from fear and want. Japan has long promoted the concept of human security in the international community. Japan's Development Cooperation Charter has also positioned it as the guiding principle that lies at the foundation of Japan's development cooperation. Human security, which puts the spotlight on individuals, is also aligned with the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),\*1 which aim to realize a society that "leaves no one behind."

The revised Development Cooperation Charter, effective from June 2023, continues to position human security as its guiding principle and sets the realization of "human security" in the new era with compound crises as one of Japan's basic policies. This means that, in addition to continuing "investment in people," such as protection and empowerment of individuals, Japan will set the solidarity of various actors as the pillars of human security, and will conduct development cooperation, making human agency a central focus. This idea is based on the 2022 Special Report on human security published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which advocates the need for human security in the new era that incorporates the concept of "solidarity," into the two conventional pillars of human security, "protection" and "empowerment."

The Government of Japan has made various efforts to promote human security so far, both in terms of the dissemination of the concept and its practical application on the ground. Under Japan's leadership, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on a shared understanding on human security in 2012. Japan also proactively promotes the concept of human security in the international community, such as by holding symposiums on human security. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May 2023, as the holder of the G7 Presidency, Japan demonstrated to developing countries facing compound crises its stance of focusing on its efforts to support people who tend to be in vulnerable situations based on the concept of human security in the new era.

Furthermore, through Japan's leadership, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security was established in 1999 to promote the implementation of human security in the field. By FY2022, Japan contributed a total of approximately ¥50 billion to this fund. The trust fund has supported 293 projects implemented by UN agencies to ensure human security in over 100 countries and regions by the end of 2022.

In January 2024, a UN report entitled the "Human Security: Report of Secretary-General" was released. It is expected that this report will further encourage discussions on human security at the UN. Japan, which has advocated human security, intends to actively lead these discussions.

\*1 See the glossary on page 32.



March 2023, Japan announcing its contribution to UNDP and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security to support displaced Ukrainians and their host communities in Moldova (Photo: UNDP Moldova)





As part of the “Achihi Aadat (good habits) Campaign” run by the JICA India Office, the sponsoring company Sanrio and one of its characters, Hello Kitty, visiting India for the first time to teach children the appropriate handwashing and nail cleaning techniques (Photo: JICA)

the aim of strengthening diagnostic and treatment systems and improving access to medical services. These efforts contribute to the promotion of UHC, as well as to the PPR for public health emergencies. Japan also provides assistance in a wider range of areas to create a more resilient environment against infectious diseases, including the development of water and sanitation infrastructure such as water supply and sewage systems, and the enhancement of food security. Japan contributes to the prevention of infectious diseases in over 15 countries by providing water purification chemicals, fuel for water trucks, personal protective equipment (PPE) for water utility personnel, and plumbing materials, as well as encouraging handwashing and conducting awareness-raising activities. JICA takes the lead in providing support for environmental improvements through supplying safe and secure water, handwashing facilities, and soaps, as well as in implementing initiatives such as the “Handwashing for Health and Life Campaign” to promote proper handwashing in developing countries (see Part III, 3 (3) on page 74 on Efforts in the area of water and sanitation).

Primary healthcare services under UHC include all services ranging from nutritional improvement, vaccination, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, infectious disease control, noncommunicable disease (NCD) control, and comprehensive community care and long-term care for older persons (see Part III, Section 1 (1) from page 29 onwards regarding nutritional improvement).

Especially with regard to maternal and child health in developing countries, there are major issues still unsolved. In response to this situation, in 2023, Japan provided support in many countries including Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Laos, Pakistan, and Senegal to improve maternal and child health.

Japan carries out activities utilizing the Maternal and

Child Health (MCH) Handbook as a means of improving maternal and child health, drawing on its experience and expertise. The MCH Handbook can contribute to the Continuum of Care (CoC) from pregnancy, childbirth, the post-partum period,<sup>64</sup> the neonatal period, infancy, to early childhood. It also enables mothers to acquire knowledge about health, raising their awareness and helping them modify their behavior. As a concrete example of this assistance, in Indonesia the MCH Handbook is widely used throughout the country as a result of Japan’s cooperation. Moreover, in cooperation with JICA, Indonesia’s relevant ministries and agencies hold events to share their experiences and knowledge with other countries that are promoting the use of the MCH Handbook. In 2023, participants from eight countries, Cambodia, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam, together with Indonesia, learned from each other’s experiences across the nine countries.

In the African region, the “Tunis Declaration,” which was adopted at TICAD 8 in August 2022 as its outcome document, confirms the importance of realizing the concept of human security, building a resilient and sustainable society to achieve the SDGs, and intensifying efforts in the health sector to achieve UHC.

Japanese NGOs work in the area of health and medical care using the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects scheme. For example, in 2023, Chikyū-no-Stage (English name: Frontline), a Japanese NGO, is conducting the “Improving Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) in Ermera Municipality” project in Timor-Leste. The project involves introducing compact ultrasound diagnostic equipment and providing training on how to operate it, holding mothers’ classes for pregnant women and nursing mothers, and conducting awareness campaigns using educational materials on maternal and child health.

Japan works in cooperation with international organizations, 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, aiming to thereby improve the health of a greater number of women and children. Japan also contributes to raising vaccination rates in developing countries through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance,<sup>\*</sup> and bilateral cooperation (see also “Japanese Personnel at International Organizations Playing Active Roles on the Front Lines across the World” on page 50 for the active role played by Japanese UNFPA personnel).

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) positions health as one of the key priority sectors in its “Strategy 2030” and sets the following three pillars to achieve UHC in the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with Japan: (i) building

<sup>64</sup> The period after childbirth in which women recover to a similar condition before pregnancy, usually around one to two months after birth.



A JICA expert providing guidance at a hospital where trainees receive training under the "Quality of Care for Maternal and Newborn Health with focus on 5S-KAIZEN-TQM" in Ghana (Photo: JICA)

institutional framework, (ii) accelerating human resources development, and (iii) investing in infrastructures. In April 2021, Japan began contributing to the ADB's Japan Trust Fund for the purpose of providing technical assistance and small grants to accelerate supports based on these three pillars. As of the end of October 2023, Japan has contributed a total of approximately \$11.5 million through the Fund.

In May 2023, the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting in Nagasaki, chaired by then Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Kato, adopted the "G7 Global Plan for UHC Action Agenda," which outlines further actions that the G7 countries should take to achieve UHC worldwide under the theme of "Working together for a healthier future." At the G7 Hiroshima Summit, the G7 leaders announced their financial contributions totaling more than \$48 billion from the public and private sectors, with a view to supporting the achievement of UHC in the post-COVID-19 era. As a part of the G7's contributions, Prime Minister Kishida expressed Japan's intention to make contributions totaling more than \$7.5 billion from the public and private sectors, including a \$200 million pledge for the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund. In September, Prime Minister Kishida attended the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC, where he stated that before the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic are forgotten, the international community needs to, once again, remember and act on the goal of achieving UHC. He also stated that, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit as well, the leaders committed to achieving more resilient, equitable, and sustainable UHC through strengthening

health systems. On this basis, Prime Minister Kishida expressed further determination to achieve UHC by 2030.

Japan has supported building health and medical systems in developing countries for many years from various perspectives such as supporting the capacity building of healthcare workers, networking regional hospitals, and strengthening regional health systems. During the COVID-19 crisis, the medical facilities that Japan has supported evidently played central roles for infection control measures. In 2023, Prime Minister Kishida received the Global Goalkeeper Award in recognition of Japan's leadership focused on health at the G7 Hiroshima Summit and years of immense contribution to global health, demonstrating high recognition from the international community.

### ■ Efforts on Individual Global Health Issues (Support in Response to COVID-19)

In response to COVID-19, since its outbreak, Japan has provided a total of approximately \$5 billion in assistance to developing countries through bilateral channels and through international organizations to date. In addition, in order to underpin economic and social activities in developing countries, as well as to address their financial needs, including in the health and medical sectors, Japan has established the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan and has provided loans totaling ¥684.8 billion to 23 countries from July 2020 to the end of September 2023.

In order to contain COVID-19, it is important to ensure equitable access to safe, effective, and quality-assured vaccines, as well as to therapeutics and diagnostics. Based on this idea, Japan has provided vaccine-related assistance to various countries and regions, in line with international frameworks such as the COVAX Facility (COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility).<sup>65</sup> As part of the "Last One Mile <sup>65</sup> Support" to realize the delivery of vaccines to vaccination sites, Japan contributed to improving the cold chain <sup>66</sup> system and strengthening healthcare providers' vaccine administration capacity.

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

SDG target 3.3 sets out to end epidemics of the three major infectious diseases by 2030. Japan makes strong efforts to support measures against them and strengthen health systems through the Global Fund.<sup>67</sup> From its establishment to February 2023, Japan has contributed approximately \$4.3 billion to the Global

<sup>65</sup> In fields such as logistics and communication services, this means the last segment of delivery of goods or services between the final provision site and the users or consumers.

<sup>66</sup> 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.

<sup>67</sup> Public-Private Partnership established in 2002, led by the discussion held at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000 when infectious diseases control was set as a major discussion topic for the first time. It contributes to efforts to achieve the SDGs by providing financial cooperation for measures against the three major infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria) and strengthening health systems in developing countries.

Fund. Furthermore, at TICAD 8 held in August 2022 and the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference in the following month, Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan would additionally contribute up to \$1.08 billion over the next three years. In order to ensure that measures against the three major infectious diseases are carried out more effectively, Japan also implements bilateral cooperation such as enhancing health systems, community empowerment, and improving maternal and child health as a complementary support to the efforts made through the Global Fund.

As for bilateral cooperation in HIV/AIDS countermeasures, Japan provides assistance to raise awareness for preventing new infections as well as to promote testing and counseling. Primarily in Africa, in 2023, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) continued to engage vigorously in deepening people's knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS prevention and providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

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

In respect of malaria, one of the major causes of infant mortality, Japan supports the effort to strengthen local communities in Myanmar and Solomon Islands as antimalaria countermeasures. Through contributions to the Global Fund, Japan also takes measures against malaria on a worldwide level.

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

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)<sup>68</sup> is a serious threat to public health, and in recent years, countermeasures against AMR have gained momentum. In order to advance measures against AMR, Japan promotes the "One Health Approach," which aims to link, across sectors, those engaged in the field of sanitation concerning humans, animals, and the environment. Based on the agreement at the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019 on promoting the One Health Approach, Japan announced that it would contribute approximately ¥1 billion to GARDP,<sup>69</sup> which promotes research and development for new antibiotics and diagnosis development. Japan takes the lead in tackling AMR, including through participation in the Global Leaders



A JOCV providing medical care at the "Hospital Universitario Japonés (Japanese University Hospital)" in Santa Cruz, Bolivia (Photo: JICA)

Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. In 2023, Japan contributed approximately ¥250 million to GARDP.

### (Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs))

Parasitic and bacterial infections, such as Chagas disease, Filariasis, and Schistosomiasis, are known as "neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)." More than 1 billion people worldwide are infected with NTDs, causing major socio-economic losses to developing countries. Japan contributed a total of ¥18.6 billion to the Global Health Innovative Technology (GHIT) Fund by 2023 and provided support for countermeasures against NTDs through GHIT. In addition, Japan signed "the Kigali Declaration on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)" in June 2022, and cooperates closely with the relevant countries and international organizations on countermeasures against NTDs. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit, Prime Minister Kishida announced a \$200 million pledge for the GHIT Fund.

Japan has provided support against Lymphatic Filariasis for Pacific Island countries through technical cooperation since the 1970s. The "Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in the Pacific Region" supports mass drug administration of anthelmintics to stop transmissions in infected areas via public-private partnership, dispatching Japanese experts to provide technical instructions, and utilizing drugs provided to WHO free of charge by the Japanese pharmaceutical company Eisai Co., Ltd. This long-term support from Japan has been proved to be successful, with 9 of 14 Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) having eliminated Lymphatic Filariasis. Through the dispatch of experts and other means, Japan will continue to support the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in Pacific Island countries.

<sup>68</sup> Pathogenic microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses, gaining resistance to antimicrobials such as antibiotics and antiviral drugs, which causes the drugs to lose sufficient efficacy.

<sup>69</sup> GARDP is an abbreviation for Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership.





State health officials at the completion of a training session (Papua New Guinea) under the “Project for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis in the Pacific Region,” technical cooperation currently being implemented in six Pacific Island countries (Photo: JICA)

### (Polio)

Polio is on the brink of eradication. Japan, in cooperation mainly with UNICEF and Gavi, provides support toward its eradication with a focus on countries where cases of infection are still being identified (polio-endemic countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan). During 2023, in Afghanistan, Japan provided support for routine immunization activities and the procurement of vaccines necessary for polio vaccination campaigns in cooperation with UNICEF. Similar supports are also ongoing in Pakistan.



## Glossary

### WHO Health Emergencies Programme

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

### Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE)

An emergency fund for responding to outbreaks and states of emergency established by WHO in 2015 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.

### Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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

### COVAX Facility (COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility)

A comprehensive mechanism for resource mobilization and supply coordination led by Gavi to secure equitable access to vaccines. COVAX enables the supply of COVID-19 vaccines swiftly at an affordable price, leveraging economies of scale through guaranteeing purchase and market demand for vaccines. The COVAX Facility has provided 2 billion doses of vaccines to 146 countries and regions as of October 2023.

## Featured Project



### Toward Establishing a Safe and Efficient Immunization System

—Strengthening Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPR) for Pandemics—

Project for Strengthening Immunization Programs in Pacific Island Countries  
(Partnership with UNICEF and WHO)

Grant Aid (April 2021 – March 2025)

Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Palau



Pacific Island countries are geographically dispersed and thus face unique challenges and vulnerabilities. Taking the Marshall Islands as an example, the country consists of atolls scattered over an area of approximately 2 million square kilometers of sea, and accessibility within the country and to the outside of the country is poor. In addition, given the vulnerability of the health and medical systems, there is a need to strengthen the immunization services in preparation for the possible influx of various infectious diseases.

Concerning such a situation, Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), provided assistance to the Marshall Islands and four other countries in the Pacific Island countries region (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, and Palau) that face similar challenges. It included the provision of equipment to strengthen the cold chain,<sup>\*1</sup> such as Solar Direct Drive (SDD) Refrigerators that can be used even in rural atolls without electricity, as well as boats for transportation among atolls. Japan also provides technical assistance for the maintenance of equipment in collaboration with UNICEF, as well as technical



Health screening at a temporary health facility in the Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands, during the outbreak of community transmission of COVID-19

assistance for formulating immunization schedules and strengthening surveillance systems for various infectious diseases in collaboration with WHO.

In the Marshall Islands, community transmission of COVID-19 was first detected in August 2022, and approximately 40% of the population was infected. However, with the equipment provided through the cooperation, timely vaccinations made it possible to contain the situation within approximately one month. Many people in the Marshall Islands expressed their gratitude for Japan's assistance. The number of people vaccinated against other infectious diseases in rural atolls since August 2022 accounts for as high as 3,000 people in 35 local communities.

Japan will continue to support the strengthening of health systems, including prevention of infectious diseases, in the Pacific Island countries region, to achieve even more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage (UHC).



Handover ceremony of Solar Direct Drive (SDD) Refrigerators that can be used even in rural atolls without electricity (Photo: UNICEF)

<sup>\*1</sup> See 66 on page 71.

## (3) Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are vital issues linked to human life. Throughout the world, approximately 2.2 billion people do not receive a supply of safely-managed drinking water, and approximately 3.5 billion people cannot use safely-managed sanitary facilities such as toilets.<sup>70</sup> In particular, in developing countries where piped water is not widely available, women and children are often compelled to spend hours fetching water, which deprives them of opportunities for participation in society and for education. Water and sanitation issues are therefore also important for promoting gender equality and an inclusive society. Furthermore, an unstable supply of water has a negative impact on healthcare and agriculture. The development of water and sanitation infrastructure

will also help create an environment that is resistant to infectious diseases, and is necessary for achieving more resilient, equitable, and sustainable universal health coverage (UHC).<sup>71</sup> SDG 6 sets forth the objective to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

### Japan's Efforts

Japan has the best track record in the world for cumulative total assistance since the 1990s in the fields of water and sanitation. In 2023, Japan provided assistance for the development and expansion of water supply and sewerage systems in countries such as Cambodia and Indonesia. In Cambodia, for instance, Japan supports Phnom Penh Capital Administration and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in their efforts to build a

<sup>70</sup> 70 According to the data of UNICEF (2022). <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jmp-report-2023/>

<sup>71</sup> See 60 on page 67.



A JICA expert confirming the demand for water transmission and distribution equipment with a counterpart from Nicaraguan Company of Aqueducts and Sanitary Sewerage (Photo: JICA)



Children at a school in the State of Koror, Palau, who are now able to wash their hands at any time at hand-washing stations newly installed with Japan's assistance

sewerage management system through the development of legal and institutional systems concerning sewerage management. As for Tajikistan, Japan implemented a technical cooperation project to strengthen the water service management capacities of Pyanj and Khamadoni Vodokanals in order to improve water supply services. Currently, Japan has dispatched water service policy advisory experts to Tajikistan to follow up on the project. Furthermore, in Pakistan, Japan implements the "Project for Upgrading Sewerage and Drainage Services in Multan" and the "Project for the Improvement of Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution System in Faisalabad," both in Punjab province (see "Stories from the Field" on page 138 for assistance to Cambodia, and "Featured Project" on page 76 for Japan's efforts in South Sudan).

The UN 2023 Water Conference, held in New York in May 2023, was attended by more than 6,700 people, including 20 leaders and 120 ministers from approximately 200 countries, regions, and organizations. Japan was represented by Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Kamikawa and others. Among the Conference's five sessions, Special Envoy Kamikawa, together with Egypt, co-chaired Session 3, which mainly discussed water for climate, resilience, and the environment, and compiled key messages for strengthening the resilience of the water sector in the world, drawing on Japan's experience in water-related disaster risk reduction. Additionally, in November, Foreign Minister Kamikawa participated through a video message in Cairo Water Week 2023, hosted by the Government of Egypt.

Japan also makes efforts to improve the water supply system in developing countries around the world in cooperation with Japanese and local private companies and organizations. For example, in Kenya, the "SDGs Verification Survey for the Measures against Non-

Revenue Water of the Water Supply System by Utilizing Mechanical Joint Connections" is implemented utilizing JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Surveys. Water leakage from water distribution pipes is a common problem in the country. As part of this survey, a pilot project was launched to utilize a Japanese company's water pipe joint connections<sup>72</sup> to prevent water leakage.

In order to address the lack of local information and knowledge with regard to the problem of serious water contamination in many Asian countries, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) of Japan implements the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA). Through cooperation among 13 participating countries<sup>73</sup> from Asia, WEPA aims to enhance water environment governance in Asia through building human networks, gathering and sharing information, and strengthening capacity. In February 2023, the 18th WEPA Annual Meeting was held in Cambodia. It focused on the current status and challenges of industrial wastewater management. The participants shared information on progress made on water environment governance in each country and lively exchanged views. Moreover, to contribute to achieving "halving the proportion of untreated wastewater" set in Target 6.3 of the SDGs, MOE introduces Japan's advanced decentralized wastewater treatment facility "Johkasou" technology, legislative systems, etc., mainly for Asian regions. The 11th workshop was held online in November. Presentations were made on examples of the use of treated water from "Johkasou" facilities in Japan and overseas, the Japanese legal system for maintaining good quality of treated water from these facilities, and proposed ordinances by local governments overseas regarding decentralized wastewater treatment. Active discussions were then held on these topics. This helped the participants gain a common understanding of the future direction and

<sup>72</sup> A part used at the joints that connect pipes together. An important component of water infrastructure to use water efficiently.

<sup>73</sup> The 13 countries are Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Japan.



## Featured Project



# Stable Supply of Safe and Inexpensive Water to More Residents

Project for the Improvement of Water Supply System of Juba in South Sudan

Grant Aid (June 2012 – January 2023)

South Sudan



South Sudan became independent in 2011, but the lives of its citizens are still under the influence of the past long-term conflicts. The basic infrastructure that supports the country's social economy remains devastated. The water supply facilities in the capital city of Juba, built in the 1930s, were deteriorated over time due to inadequate maintenance. In addition, since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was concluded in 2005, the country has not been able to cope with the rapid population growth caused by the influx of internally displaced persons and others. As of 2010, only around 8% of the population had access to purified water, and many people were living on raw water from rivers or wells, making infectious diseases and the impact on economic activity an issue.

To address this challenge, Japan began supporting the expansion of water treatment facilities and the construction of new water transmission and distribution pipeline networks and water supply facilities in 2012. After some suspensions due to domestic political instability and the spread of COVID-19, the project was completed



Women and children coming to buy water at a public stand. The demand for the water is so huge that people often line up for their turn (Photo: TEC International Co., Ltd.)



Panoramic view of the completed water treatment facility (Photo: TEC International Co., Ltd.)

in January 2023, and began supplying water to local citizens.

With the cooperation of Japan, water supplies are now available at 8 water tanker filling stations and 120 public stands, making it possible to supply water to approximately 380,000 people a day, an increase of more than 10 times from the 34,000 people served before the facilities started operating. Water tankers and local people gather at the water supply facilities from early in the morning, and by noon all the water is distributed. Positive comments from the local people include, "It has shortened the time to get water," and "We can now get clean water at a cheaper price than before."

Access to safe water is a fundamental right that is essential to people's lives. Japan will continue to protect the people's livelihoods and support South Sudan's state-building efforts by developing these basic socio-economic infrastructures.

improvement measures to resolve the issues. Through the workshop, information on decentralized wastewater treatment systems, including the "Johkasou" facilities, was disseminated, and cooperation with people involved in decentralized wastewater treatment in each country was strengthened.

Moreover, in November, Japan jointly hosted the Seminar on Improving Water Environment in Indonesia with Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry. At the seminar, to promote the overseas expansion of Japanese "Johkasou" facilities, Japan provided knowledge about the legal framework and maintenance of these facilities in Japan, and held discussions on future issues and initiatives regarding decentralized wastewater management in Indonesia.

## (4) Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction and Creating Sustainable Cities

Amid the concern over the effects of climate change that might increase the frequency, scale, and area of disasters, the impact of disasters on the economy and

the entire society is becoming increasingly serious in developing countries vulnerable to disasters. Disaster risk reduction efforts are essential to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. It is necessary to build a disaster-resilient and flexible society to protect human lives from disasters, while making efforts toward sustainable development. 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.

In recent years, various issues related to the management of cities have received increased attention. They include such issues as handling the disposal of the substantial amount of waste produced in urban areas and suburbs, pollution of air, water, etc., development of infrastructure facilities including sewage and waste treatment systems, and rapid population increases and the consequent rapid 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



A field survey by Quito city officials and an expert team from Japan into the landslide disaster that occurred in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, in January 2022. Japan supports the capacity building of government agencies to reduce the risk of landslides. (Photo: JICA)

inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.” As shown by this fact, there are growing international interests in resolving the issues of human settlements that include realizing sustainable cities.

### Japan's Efforts

#### ■ Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

Japan utilizes its enriched knowledge and expertise acquired through its past experiences with disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, to provide proactive support for disaster risk reduction and post disaster recovery with emergency assistance (see “Featured Projects” on page 104 for disaster risk reduction efforts in Honduras and on page 113 for efforts in the Kyrgyz Republic). The “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework),” which was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), incorporated many ideas proposed by Japan. These include the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, the importance of investment in disaster risk reduction, the involvement of diverse stakeholders, the concept of “Build Back Better” to build cities that are more resilient to disasters in post-disaster recovery, and the importance of women’s leadership.

As 2023 marks the halfway point of the planning period of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework),” the High-Level Meeting on the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework Disaster Risk Reduction was held at the United Nations Headquarters in May to assess the progress of efforts in the field of disaster risk reduction. At the same time, the meeting highlighted the need for each stakeholder to accelerate their efforts to achieve the goals by 2030 amid the increasing disaster risks worldwide due to climate change.

In addition, a resolution was adopted to designate November 5 as “World Tsunami Awareness Day” responding to Japan’s call at the UN General Assembly in 2015. Accordingly, the High School Students Summit

on “World Tsunami Awareness Day” has been held in various parts of Japan since 2016. The Summit has been held five times so far, and the sixth meeting is scheduled to be held in Kumamoto City in the fall of 2024. Furthermore, on November 7, 2023, Japan co-organized an event to raise awareness of the necessity to reduce the risk of tsunamis at the UN Headquarters with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Moreover, in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan implements projects to support the formulation of tsunami evacuation plans and tsunami evacuation drills for countries at high tsunami risk in the Asia-Pacific region. Since the start of the projects in 2017, the institutionalization of disaster risk reduction has been promoted in countries such as Thailand, as seen in the development of guidelines for school evacuation plans and drills, including measures for students with disabilities who have been previously overlooked, and the adaptation of these guidelines by 27,000 schools nationwide. By the end of 2023, the formulation and revision of tsunami disaster management plans, as well as programs for tsunami education, have been implemented at 452 schools across 23 countries, with approximately 190,000 students, teachers, and stakeholders of local governments and communities participating in tsunami evacuation drills (see “Stories from the Field” on page 60 regarding efforts on disaster risk reduction education in Türkiye).

Additionally, every year from 2016, Japan and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office have worked together to provide support for human resources development targeting female government officials in developing countries vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly focusing on women’s roles and leadership in the event of tsunamis. Under this project, 479 people from 39 countries participated by the end of 2023.

Japan also contributes in the field of overseas deployment of ICT systems for disaster risk reduction. Japan’s ICT systems for disaster risk reduction make it possible to collect, analyze, and disseminate disaster related information in an integrated manner, allowing detailed information to be communicated swiftly and infallibly at the community level. This contributes to the improvement of disaster risk reduction capabilities in developing countries.

#### ■ Realizing Sustainable Cities

Japan takes initiatives to resolve global issues directly related to human settlements, including efforts for disaster risk reduction, recovery from natural disasters, and promoting a sound water cycle. Specifically, drawing on its know-how and experience, Japan develops infrastructure, including water and sewage, waste, and energy facilities. In addition, Japan conducts disaster risk reduction programs, human resources development, etc. based on the concept of “Build Back Better.” Japan

also works together with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to further promote sustainable urban development. One example can be seen in collaboration with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)-Fukuoka, which supports the introduction of the disaster prevention technology of Fukuoka Prefecture to developing countries.

Following the first meeting in Potsdam, Germany, in 2022, the second G7 Sustainable Urban Development Ministers' Meeting was held in Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, in July 2023 under the Japanese Presidency. Themed "Achieving Sustainable Urban Development Together," the attendees confirmed the need to address issues such as achieving net-zero and resilient cities, the realization of inclusive cities, and digitalization in cities. In addition to summarizing the outcomes of the meeting in a communiqué, the "Kagawa-Takamatsu Principles," named after the host city, were announced as guidelines for collaboration with various actors to realize the communiqué.

## (5) Quality Education for All

There are approximately 58 million children who are unable to attend elementary school in the world. Including secondary school, an estimated 244 million children are out of school.<sup>74</sup> In particular, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the percentage of out-of-school children has been increasing since 2000. Above all, children with disabilities, children of minority ethnic groups and disadvantaged communities, refugee and displaced children, and those living in remote areas are at the greatest risk of being left behind. Russia's aggression against Ukraine has deprived children and students of their right to education and halted international exchange. Meanwhile, the spread of COVID-19 has revealed vulnerabilities in the education system. In addition to the loss of learning opportunities due to school closures, it is pointed out that some children do not return to school even after reopening. These situations raise further concerns about malnutrition, early marriage, and gender inequality of those children.

Education is extremely important as an "investment in people" that is essential for promoting "human security." SDG 4 aims to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all," and the international community works on achieving the goal of "Education 2030 Framework for Action."<sup>\*</sup> The Transforming Education Summit, held at the UN Headquarters in September 2022, also highlighted the need for international cooperation to build education systems that can respond to crises in order to protect education for people in vulnerable

situations. Japan continues to promote educational initiatives based on the perspectives of quality education for all, empowerment of women, children, and youth, and ensuring educational opportunities in conflict and disaster situations.

## Japan's Efforts

Japan provides developing countries with a broad range of support, including the enhancement of basic education<sup>75</sup> and higher education.

In particular, Japan provides support to children prone to be in vulnerable situations, such as girls, children with disabilities, and children in conflict-affected areas, as well as children of refugees, displaced persons, and their host communities, who have been left out of school and learning opportunities. For example, Japan supports projects for children in conflict-affected areas by providing distance learning equipment and mental health care support in Ukraine. Japan also works to promote inclusive education that takes into consideration children with disabilities, as well as education with climate change and disaster risk reduction perspectives. For example, in Mongolia, Japan works to develop primary and secondary education facilities that are barrier-free and equipped with fire doors and storage, which can be used as a base for disaster prevention for the local communities (see "Stories from the Field" on page 80 for higher education support in India. Also see "Featured Project" on page 86 for efforts for children with disabilities in Kenya).

Also, Japan contributed a total of approximately \$51.41 million from 2008 to 2023 to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).<sup>\*</sup> In 2022 alone, more than 106 million children were supported through GPE's support activities, and more than 670,000 teachers



Third grade primary school children using a math study app as part of a project to improve teaching and learning mathematics in primary education in Laos (Photo: JICA)

<sup>74</sup> Pages 211 and 214 of the "Global Education Monitoring Report 2023." <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/technology>

<sup>75</sup> The educational activities designed to enable individuals to acquire 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.



were trained. At the Global Education Summit held in July 2021, Japan pledged to contribute more than \$1.5 billion over five years from 2021 to 2025 to support the education sector, including continued support for GPE, as well as the support for the education and human resources development of 7.5 million girls in developing countries. More than 1.25 million girls were supported over the two-year period from FY2021 to FY2022, and Japan will continue to provide support going forward. Furthermore, Japan announced that it would make a new contribution to the Education Cannot Wait (ECW)\* fund to ensure that Ukrainian children could learn in a safer environment.

At TICAD 8 held in August 2022, as an initiative in the field of education (human resources development including youth and women) for Africa, Japan expressed that it would help improve children's learning by promoting school enrollment, improving inclusiveness, and providing school meals. Japan also announced that, through these efforts, it aims to eventually provide quality education, including STEM<sup>76</sup> education, to 9 million children and improve access to quality education for 4 million girls. In addition, Japan announced that it would work to develop highly-skilled human resources through human resources development and acceptance of students from Africa under the Japan-Africa university network, and would promote research cooperation in the field of science and technology.

Specifically, Japan has implemented the "School for All"<sup>77</sup> project since 2004, which aims to build relationships of trust between schools, parents and guardians, and local residents, as well as to improve the education environment for children, particularly in West African countries. In cooperation with the World Bank, GPE, and others, Japan works to expand the project throughout each targeted country, and by October 2022, approximately 70,000 primary and secondary schools in nine countries have introduced the project. Japan also cooperates with more than 20 Japanese universities, establishing a university network based at the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) in Egypt and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)/PAU Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI) in Kenya. By strengthening collaboration in education, research, and industry-academia collaboration, Japan aims to resolve social issues in the entire African region through research cooperation.

In addition, with regard to Africa, Japan has provided specialized education and internship opportunities in Japan for African youth through the "African Business



A JOCV working to improve the quality of primary education in Djibouti City (Photo: JICA)

Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative).” To date, Japan has worked to develop human resources who will be the backbone of Africa's future, with over 6,700 young people involved. (see Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 139 and Part V, Section 2 (2) A on page 143 regarding the ABE Initiative).

In the Asia-Pacific region, Japan provides assistance for initiatives toward the achievement of SDG 4. It includes support for organizing the “Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030)” through the contribution to a funds-in-trust within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as support for improvement of education quality, enhancement of early childhood education, spread of non-formal education, and improvement of teachers' teaching skills. Moreover, Japan supports human resources development in developing countries by engaging in a wide range of efforts such as strengthening networking among higher education institutions between Japan and ASEAN, collaborating with the industrial sector, participating in joint research projects with neighboring countries, and accepting international students to Japanese higher education institutions and other institutions.

### ■ Promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

“Education for Sustainable Development\*: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)” began in January 2020 with UNESCO as the leading organization. ESD can contribute to the realization of all SDGs by fostering the builders of a sustainable society, and Japan, as the country that proposed ESD, continues not only to engage in the promotion of ESD but also to play a significant

<sup>76</sup> STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and refers collectively to these four fields.

<sup>77</sup> This is a community-wide school management initiative in which “everyone,” including parents, teachers, and local residents, forms a School Management Committee and works with the government to manage the school. It supports children's learning by sharing the importance of education with the entire community, not only parents and teachers. It began in 23 primary schools in Niger in 2004 and has now expanded to multiple countries in Africa.

## The University of Tokyo Cooperates on the Design of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) – Establishing a Base for the Development of Highly Skilled Human Resources in Science –



A panoramic view of IITH. Among the buildings that the University of Tokyo cooperated in designing, from left: International Guest House, Convention Center, Technology Research Park, Technology Incubation Park, and Knowledge Center (library). (Photo: KAWAZOE Yoshiyuki)

In India, while the labor force is increasing with the population growth, the percentage of people who have received skill training remains at around 10% of the population, causing a shortage of highly skilled human resources required by industry. Human resources development is an urgent issue to promote the manufacturing industry, which requires technological innovation, in order to lead to further job creation. The Government of India provides international-level education and research opportunities through the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) founded in 1951, regarding higher education in science and engineering, which is important for developing human resources that support Indian industry. As there was a need for further expansion of the institution in order to meet the human resources needs of the industry, the Government of India requested Japan's cooperation in establishing a new institution of IITs in Hyderabad (IITH). Following the Japan-India Summit Meeting in October 2008, the two countries agreed to cooperate with the aim of establishing a world-class educational institution that would become a symbol of Japan-India cooperation by introducing Japanese-style management and engineering education to India and strengthening human and academic exchanges between the two countries.

Dr. FUJINO Yozo, Professor of the University of Tokyo at the time and the team leader for the IITH design, looks back and says, "Multiple Japanese universities collaborated in the establishment of IITH. I served as a leader on urban engineering in the working group, which was established in response to a request for cooperation from then Prime Minister Singh of India in 2007, consisting of industry, government, and academia officials from both countries, and led the discussion on how Japan could contribute to the establishment of IITH. The University of Tokyo was highly recognized for its design skills, and was asked to cooperate on the design." From 2011, Dr. OHNO Hidetoshi, then professor at the University of Tokyo, and Dr. KAWAZOE Yoshiyuki, associate professor at the same university, joined the team, and the University of Tokyo cooperated in designing a total of six buildings\*1 that symbolize IITH, including the Technology Incubation Park, Convention Center, and International Guest House.

During the design process, the team held a total of 15 on-site discussions with the Indian side. Dr. Ohno says, "While incorporating Indian culture and design, such as the distinctive roof shape used in traditional architecture in the Bengal region, we also incorporated elements of traditional Japanese patterns and rock gardens. The pond built in front of the International Guest House is inspired by the Indian stepwell remains, and it contributes to the greening of the campus." Dr. Kawazoe explains, "The University of Tokyo is promoting Japan's design skill overseas, with its plan to implement the College of Design concept, among others. India

stands out in the science field but will benefit from improvements in design skills and quality. I believe that through this cooperation, we were able to convey Japan's design skills. Furthermore, in the cooperation process, we did not simply hand over drawings, but continued discussions through video conferences and other means even during the spread of COVID-19 to ensure the completion of high-quality construction. This demonstrated the typical Japanese attitude of cooperation that conveyed a commitment to quality, going beyond the entrusted drawings to complete the construction with excellence."

Dr. Fujino describes future prospects; "The Technology Incubation Park that Japan was involved in designing has led to industry-academia cooperation, with a Japanese company opening a center for joint research with IITH. On the academic side, although IITH does not have a department comparable to the architecture department of Japanese universities, we as architects plan to give lectures locally as a result of our cooperation in the design." Japan also cooperates with IITH's human resources development. By 2020, 116 students from IITH had studied at Japanese universities using a scholarship provided by JICA through the project for future researchers at IITH (FRIENDSHIP Project), and some of them have joined the faculty at IITH after obtaining their doctorate in Japan. JICA and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) co-sponsored with IITH a total of six career fairs by Japanese companies by 2023, and exchanges among industrial personnel are becoming more active. It is expected that exchanges between Japan and India based at the Hyderabad campus will thrive.



Discussion with the IITH side on site (From right in the photo: Dr. Kawazoe, Dr. Ohno, Dr. Fujino, and then Director of IITH Dr. Desai) (Photo: FUJINO Yozo)

\*1 Later, IITH additionally requested the construction of a Technology Research Park with the same design as the Technology Incubation Park, bringing the total number of buildings that Japan has helped design to seven.

role in its global advocacy and enhancement through the funds-in-trust to UNESCO. In addition, through the aforementioned funds-in-trust, Japan actively promotes ESD by implementing the “UNESCO-Japan Prize on

Education for Sustainable Development” together with UNESCO, honoring organizations and institutions that conduct excellent initiatives toward putting ESD into practice. 21 organizations have been awarded to date.



## Glossary

### Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA)

A framework for action that succeeds “The Dakar Framework for Action: Education for All,” aimed at achieving education for all and adopted at the “World Education Forum” in Dakar, Senegal in 2000. The FFA was adopted at the “Education 2030 High-Level Meeting,” which was held to coincide with the UNESCO General Conference in 2015.

### Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

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 societies, and private-sector corporations and foundations. It was renamed GPE from Fast Track Initiative (FTI) in 2011.

### Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

A fund established at the World Humanitarian Summit held by the UN in Istanbul in May 2016 with the aim of supporting children and young people in emergency situations, such as conflicts and natural disasters, to enable them to access education.

### Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Education that fosters builders of sustainable societies. 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 reaffirmed in the “ESD for 2030,” adopted by a resolution of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2019. “ESD for 2030” is a succeeding program of the “United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) (2005-2014)” and the “Global Action Program (GAP) on ESD (2015-2019),” and is a new international framework for the implementation from 2020 to 2030.

## (6) Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusive Society

It is often the case that the social norms and systems in developing countries are generally shaped by men’s perspectives, which leave women in vulnerable positions in many aspects. On the other hand, women are critical actors in each country’s development, and their participation leads not only to the improvement of their own lives but also to increasing the impact of the development. For example, improving the literacy of women who have had few or no educational opportunities so far increases their access to correct information on public health and prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and leads to appropriate family planning, which will promote women’s social advancement and economic empowerment. Moreover, it contributes to the sustainable and inclusive economic growth of developing countries.

The “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)” strongly and clearly addresses that “Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets.” In concrete terms, SDG 5 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 that men and women participate equally in all phases of development cooperation and reap the benefits equitably.

Challenges such as poverty, conflicts, infectious diseases, terrorism, and natural disasters have varying impacts depending on the situations that individuals are in, including their country and region, or whether they are women and/or children. As a result of infectious diseases, conflicts, large-scale natural disasters, and other factors, the global population living in poverty is increasing, while in some countries disparities have widened and humanitarian situations have been worsening, which created an even further need for support for people who tend to be in vulnerable situations. The concept of human security, which focuses on the protection and empowerment of each individual, is thus indispensable for the realization of a society that fulfills the principle of the SDGs, “no one will be left behind.”

### Japan’s Efforts

#### ■ Promotion of Women’s Empowerment and Participation

In the “Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment,”<sup>78</sup> Japan set the following three basic principles: (i) promoting women’s rights, (ii) building the capacity of women to reach their full potentials, and (iii) advancing women’s leadership in political, economic, and other public fields. Based on this

<sup>78</sup> Thematic policies formulated in 2016 to promote the active participation of women in development cooperation.





Women receiving entrepreneurship training from a JICA expert in Department of Sololá, Guatemala (Photo: JICA)

strategy, Japan advances its efforts in the international community to promote gender mainstreaming,<sup>79</sup> gender equality, and women's and girls' empowerment.

Japan contributed \$50 million to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi),<sup>80</sup> and an additional \$5 million in June 2023. As of June 2023, Japan has supported 149,256 women-owned/led small and medium enterprises (WSMEs) in 67 countries. Specifically, 127,428 WSMEs have received financial assistance while 28,404 received training to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for management. According to the World Bank, 70% of WSMEs in developing countries are unable to receive financing from financial institutions or are faced with poor borrowing terms. In response to such a situation, through We-Fi, Japan promotes the development of legal systems free from gender discrimination and supports women entrepreneurs in having equal access to financing and markets.

As the G7 Presidency in 2023, Japan led the G7's efforts on gender (see Part I, Section 2 on page 6 for details).

In December, the Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC), an external advisory body that provides recommendations on gender equality for G7 leaders, submitted the final report, "Gender Mainstreaming for an Inclusive, Peaceful, and Just Society," which compiled its recommendations to Prime Minister Kishida. In the same month, as a follow-up event of the GEAC and World Assembly for Women (WAW!),<sup>81</sup> Japan hosted the Symposium on GEAC Report 2023 and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Panel Discussion under the

theme of "How Japan can contribute to promoting women's participation in international peace and security," where participants consisting of practitioners and high-level members engaged in discussions.

Japan also provides support through UN Women and contributed approximately \$14 million in 2022 and \$21 million in 2023 for promoting political participation and economic empowerment of women, eliminating sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, enhancing women's role in the peace and security fields, and strengthening gender-responsive policies and budgets. In addition, in 2023, Japan provided emergency assistance and support for ensuring the means of livelihood to women who have been economically and socially affected by conflicts and disasters in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Eastern Europe, including Afghanistan and Ukraine. For example, in Pakistan, 60 women community centers were established in the six months from February to August to promote women's independence, with 6,609 women and 1,131 girls using the centers, and 7,000 women were assisted in obtaining identity documents. Furthermore, the centers provided 280 men and community leaders with support to combat gender-based violence and improve their knowledge of gender equality.

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



Women participating in training in Cameroon as part of a project aimed at protecting internally displaced persons from threats such as gender-based violence and strengthening their resilience (Photo: UN Women/Melvin Songwe, United Youth Organization)

<sup>79</sup> Integrating a gender perspective into all policies, measures, and projects in order to achieve gender equality in every field. In the field of development, it refers to the process of clarifying development challenges, needs, and impacts on both men and women, at every stage of planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, of all development policies, measures, and projects, based on the premise that they have different impacts on men and women.

<sup>80</sup> The launch of We-Fi was announced at the G20 Hamburg Summit in 2017. By assisting women entrepreneurs and WSMEs in developing countries to overcome various obstacles they face such as access to finance and legal systems and regulations, 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.

<sup>81</sup> An international conference that Japan has held since 2014 as part of its efforts to realize gender equality and women's empowerment, which are among the priority issues for the Government of Japan, both domestically and internationally. It is known as "WAW!" and is an abbreviation for World Assembly for Women.



Internally displaced women in Ethiopia receiving dignity kits (Photo: UNFPA Ethiopia)

Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC).<sup>82</sup> In 2023, Japan contributed approximately \$1.04 million to the OSRSG-SVC to provide medical and psychological support and support for socio-economic reintegration in Mali to women who have been or are at risk of being victims of conflict-related sexual violence by armed forces.

Japan also contributed an additional €2 million in 2023 to the Global Survivors Fund (GSF),<sup>\*</sup> making it a total of €8 million in contributions so far. Japan, as its board member, actively contributes to supporting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in conflict-affected areas, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ukraine.

### ■ Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

Japan has formulated its National Action Plan since 2015 to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325<sup>83</sup> on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), adopted in 2000, which was the first Security Council resolution to explicitly link women to the peace and security agenda, and other relevant resolutions. In April 2023, the Government of Japan formulated the Third Edition of the National Action Plan (2023-2028) based on exchanges of opinions with relevant government ministries and agencies, experts, NGOs, civil society, and public comments. Specifically, Japan, with the cooperation of relevant ministries and agencies, supports women in conflict-affected and fragile countries, mainly through international organizations and bilateral assistance. In September 2023, Foreign Minister Kamikawa attended the “WPS Focal Points Network<sup>84</sup> High-Level Side Event” and stated that Japan, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, will continue to

promote the discussion on WPS as an important agenda of the UN.

In December, Foreign Minister Kamikawa participated in the “Second Global Refugee Forum,” in which Japan served as one of the coconveners and stated that the concept of WPS is essential when considering solutions for refugees and displaced persons (see “ODA Topics” on page 49 for the “Second Global Refugee Forum”).

In January 2024, the Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) was established to provide coordination across the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

In terms of the G7 framework, under the G7 WPS<sup>85</sup> Partnership Initiative (2018), Japan has assisted its partner country of Sri Lanka since 2019. Japan provides assistance for the formulation of its WPS Action Plan and for women’s financial empowerment, including for the households of widows who are left behind after the 26-year internal conflict, as a project for the implementation of the country’s Action Plan. The livelihood support provided by this partnership is appreciated by the Government of Sri Lanka as a catalyst for economic recovery as well as a contribution to peace building and reconstruction in the region (see “ODA Topics” on page 152 for the documentary videos produced by MOFA that focus on “Japanese Women Delivering Hope in a World of Uncertainty”).

### ■ Assistance for People who Tend to be in Vulnerable Situations (Disability and Development)

Persons with disabilities are often placed in difficult situations in society. Japan’s ODA pays due attention



Foreign Minister Kamikawa delivering a statement at the “WPS Focal Points Network High-Level Side Event” in September 2023

<sup>82</sup> See also MOFA’s website ([https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page23e\\_000466.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page23e_000466.html)) for Japan’s efforts regarding the prevention of sexual violence in conflict.

<sup>83</sup> In 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the first resolution in the Council’s history to state that equal participation of women, protection from sexual violence in conflict, and gender equality are necessary for international peace, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution.

<sup>84</sup> The largest network on WPS among UN member states to share lessons learned and good practices. In addition to governments, regional organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the African Union (AU), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also participate. As of September 2023, a total of 100 members from 90 countries and 10 regional organizations participate in the network.

<sup>85</sup> G7 WPS is an abbreviation for G7 Women, Peace and Security.



to the situation of people who are denied equal participation in society, including persons with disabilities. Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>86</sup> stipulates that States Parties would undertake measures for international cooperation and its promotion.

Policies for persons with disabilities cover a number of different areas, such as welfare, health and medical care, education, and employment. Japan applies its accumulated expertise and experiences in these areas to support developing countries in implementing measures and policies on disability through ODA and NGO activities.

For example, Japan takes a thorough hands-on approach to suit various local needs, such as by incorporating accessible design in the planning of railroad and airport construction, developing vocational training centers and rehabilitation facilities (for people with disabilities), and providing minibuses as transportation for persons with disabilities. Additionally, Japan provides a wide range of technical cooperation through JICA to enhance the capacity of organizations and personnel engaged in the field of assisting persons with disabilities and development. These efforts include the acceptance of trainees from developing countries and the dispatch of JOCVs and experts who aim to promote social participation and employment (see “Featured Project” on page 86 regarding the assistance for children with disabilities in Kenya. In addition, see “Featured Project” on page 57 for efforts on elections in Timor-Leste).

#### (Assistance for Children)

Generally, children tend to be in vulnerable situations. Today, there are many children around the world placed in harsh environments due to the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to conflicts, natural disasters, etc. In response to this situation, Japan provides a variety of humanitarian and development cooperation for children bilaterally and through international organizations. In 2023, through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Japan provided assistance for children being affected by poverty, conflict, increasing natural disasters due to climate change, persistent COVID-19, and other factors in 40 countries mainly in Asia, Oceania, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Under the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects,<sup>87</sup> which supports grass-roots level economic and social development initiatives, Japan implements projects that contribute to improving children’s living conditions, such as the construction and refurbishment of schools, provision of medical equipment



A JOCV working with students with intellectual disabilities at a special-needs school in Bolivia (Photo: JICA)

to hospitals, and development of water supply facilities.

For example, in Thailand, Japan supported procuring vehicles at a children’s home in Kanchanaburi Province. This will enable safe and efficient transportation of the children cared for at the children’s home to school, hospitals, and other places, and is expected to improve the children’s living and educational environment.

In Uruguay, Japan provided assistance to improve after-school club facilities for primary, junior and senior high school students in Treinta y Tres Department. It is expected to provide nutritious meals and an appropriate learning environment for the children attending the schools, and also help alleviate the problem of children on waiting lists.

#### (Support for People in Conflict Situations)

It is also important to note that in times of conflict, those in difficult social positions, including persons with disabilities and children, are the most susceptible to the situation. Socially vulnerable people, such as the rapidly increasing number of child refugees and displaced persons, in addition to persons with disabilities caused by conflict or landmines, orphans, widows, and ex-combatants, including child soldiers, are susceptible to the impact of a conflict. However, 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, Japan provides support for the social reintegration of child soldiers and the protection and empowerment of children who are the most vulnerable in conflict-affected areas, through UNICEF. For example, Japan supports the social reintegration of former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the

<sup>86</sup> A convention that stipulates measures to realize the rights of persons with disabilities, with the aim of ensuring that persons with disabilities can enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms and promoting respect for the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities. Japan ratified the Convention in 2014.

<sup>87</sup> Based on the concept of human security, this is a type of grant aid (with a maximum grant amount of ¥10 million in principle) that provides the necessary funds for relatively small-scale projects with the aim of socio-economic development in developing countries. The grant aid directly contributes to the residents of those countries. The recipients of the funds include local NGOs, local public entities, and other organizations. See MOFA’s website on the details of the program and past achievements (<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/files/000071826.pdf>).





Students at an elementary school in the village of Harbasa Bani Hares in Palestine taking a class in a spacious environment.



Japanese experts discussing ways to improve services at the only tertiary pediatric hospital with hospital staff members in Sierra Leone (Photo: Asuka World Consultants)

Congo and Iraq, the protection of children separated from their families in Afghanistan and Somalia, explosives risk reduction education in Myanmar, the protection of children and women who are victims of sexual violence in Ethiopia and Mali, and mental health care for children in Ukraine.

Through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Japan carries out protection activities for refugees and displaced persons, as well as providing humanitarian assistance tailored to

the needs of those particularly likely to be in vulnerable situations. For example, in Uganda, Japan provides psychosocial support to children in refugee settlements to protect them from violence, abuse, and exploitation. In Ukraine, Japan provides daily necessities, shelter support, legal assistance, etc., to vulnerable people, such as elderly people who have lost their homes due to war and female-headed households (see “Featured Project” on page 133 for support for refugee children through NGOs in refugee camps).



## Glossary

### Global Survivors Fund (GSF)

Fund launched by Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureates 2018. It aims to facilitate access to reparations and support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence against the backdrop that many of them do not receive public reparations. GSF conducts awareness-raising activities regarding the development of the judicial system to support and give relief to survivors.

## (7) Culture and Sports

Cultural heritage that is symbolic of a country can be effectively utilized to improve the livelihoods of the residents in the surrounding areas, including employment creation in the region, if it is developed as a tourism resource. Cultural heritage that attracts tourists from abroad could also be an important source of foreign currency for a country's economy. On the other hand, a large number of cultural heritage sites are in danger due to the lack of funds, equipment, and technology among others, and hence assistance to protect such cultural heritage sites is required. The World Heritage Convention,<sup>88</sup> an international framework for protecting buildings and other structures of universal value in the world as the “common heritage

of mankind,” states that the protection of such heritage and international cooperation for that is the duty of the international community as a whole. The preservation and promotion of culture, including the invaluable cultural heritage in developing countries, should be addressed not only by the countries with cultural heritage in danger, but also by the entire international community.

Sports can not only help maintain and improve health but are also viewed as a means of education, which is important for “investment in people” to promote “human security.” Sports also contribute to cultivating a sense of respect for others, a spirit of mutual understanding, and normative consciousness, and the influence and positive power of sports play a role as a “catalyst” for the development and growth of developing countries.

<sup>88</sup> The official name of the convention is the “Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.” The objective of the Convention is to establish a system of international cooperation and assistance in order to preserve and protect cultural and natural heritage from threat of damage or destruction as World Heritage of humankind as a whole. It was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference in 1972 and became effective in 1975. Japan became a State Party to the Convention in 1992.

## Featured Project



### Aiming for an Inclusive Society

#### Project for the Construction of a Comprehensive Care Centre for Children with Special Needs

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project (August 2021 – October 2022)

Kenya



In Kenya, only a limited number of facilities provide medical care, rehabilitation, education, and social support for children with special needs. Many of them and their families tend to be isolated from society without a place to belong. Families whose children have disabilities and who do not receive support services are often unable to participate in society as they tend to be preoccupied with childcare. It is not uncommon for overwork and prejudice from those around them to lead the family to break up. Against this backdrop, Dr. KUMON Kazuko, a Japanese doctor, established a non-governmental organization named the Garden of Siloam in 2015, and started providing medical and rehabilitation day-care services at low cost, primarily for children with special needs associated with autism and cerebral palsy. However, the number of users increased to the point of exceeding its capacity. The facility tended to get overcrowded, and the organization began facing challenges such as a deterioration in the quality of medical services and the sanitary environment. At the same time, there were still many children waiting for admission. Thus, expanding the facility became an urgent issue.

Through a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project,<sup>\*1</sup> Japan supported the construction of a comprehensive care center equipped with sufficient sanitary facilities to provide appropriate medical and rehabilitation services to children with



A child user and staff members at the facility that was expanded through assistance from the Government of Japan (Photo: The Garden of Siloam (CHIBA Yasuyoshi))

special needs. The facility is equipped with a consultation room, a rehabilitation room, a social worker's office, and a toilet for children with disabilities.

With the facility expanded through this project, the Garden of Siloam is now able to accommodate more children with special needs who live in the community. It can fully provide medical and rehabilitation services in an appropriate environment that ensures accessibility and safety. The improved facility and equipment have made it possible for the organization to provide an increased number of activity options. As a result, social and economic self-reliance are promoted for the families who were previously unable to participate in society due to caring for children with special needs.

Japan will continue to support sustainable development with various partners, promoting the self-reliance and social participation of local residents, with the aim of realizing diverse and inclusive societies in which all people can participate in and benefit from development.



Dr. Kumon communicating with a child user of the facility (Photo: The Garden of Siloam (CHIBA Yasuyoshi))

<sup>\*1</sup> See 87 on page 84.

## Japan's Efforts

Japan has provided assistance for the promotion of culture, including sports, higher education, and preservation of cultural heritage in developing countries through the Cultural Grant Assistance\* since 1975. Facilities constructed with such assistance also serve as hubs for spreading information about Japan and for cultural exchanges with Japan, contributing to a deeper understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity toward Japan. In 2023, Japan implemented 20 projects that support education, including Japanese language education, cultural heritage preservation, and sports under the Cultural Grant Assistance.

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 ¥600 million in FY2023 and has implemented multiple projects in the field of cultural heritage through the fund. In Japan's assistance, a particular emphasis is put on human resources development in developing countries so that they themselves can preserve their own cultural heritage in the future. To this end, Japan endeavors to dispatch international experts, mainly Japanese experts, as well as hold workshops in order to transfer the techniques and expertise to developing countries. In addition to the support for tangible cultural heritage, Japan also supports the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage such as traditional dances, music,

handcraft techniques, and oral lore (oral traditions) through successor training, records conservation, and creation of safeguard mechanisms under the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Japan also conducts training programs with the aim of improving the capacities to protect cultural heritage by inviting young experts engaged 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, Japan conducts biennial training on maintenance and repair methods for wooden buildings and on survey records of archeological remains. In 2023, Japan conducted online training on recording, preserving, and exhibiting archaeological remains using digital technology for experts in the Central Asian region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan).

In the field of sports, Japan has been continuously promoting “Sport for Tomorrow,”<sup>89</sup> an international contribution program that was launched in 2014 to raise momentum for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, even after the Games ended. This program aims to extensively implement initiatives that demonstrate Japan’s presence by engaging in international exchange and cooperation through sports, and contribute to the SDGs through international cooperation projects in the field of sports that leverage Japan’s strengths. In



A Japanese teacher giving a class that introduces Japanese culture at Xokkham Elementary School in Laos, as part of the Study Tour Program for Teachers, in which teachers working on development education are dispatched to development cooperation sites with the aim of utilizing what they have learned in the program in their classes after returning home (Photo: JICA)

2023, Japan dispatched a total of 105 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) in the field of sports to developing countries. Moreover, Japan provides sports-related facilities and equipment, dispatches and invites coaches and athletes, and conducts projects in the field of sports that involve the provision of technical cooperation, introductions to Japanese culture, and human resources development.<sup>90</sup>



## 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 (including sports) and higher education as well as for the preservation of cultural heritage in developing countries. It aims to promote friendly relationships and mutual understanding by encouraging cultural and educational advancements in developing countries as well as cultural exchanges between Japan and the recipient countries through such assistance. There are two modalities; “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.

<sup>89</sup> Sport for Tomorrow website: <https://www.sport4tomorrow.jpnsport.go.jp/>

<sup>90</sup> MOFA’s sports diplomacy initiatives: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/culture/people/sports/index.html>



## Promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Japan’s Efforts at the Midpoint Year toward Achieving the SDGs –

The international community is at history’s turning point and facing compound crises. These include poverty and disparity, war and conflict, terrorism, refugees and displaced persons, infectious diseases, natural disasters, climate change, and environmental issues.

The spread of COVID-19, Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, and the escalating tension in the situation between Israel and Palestine, among others, reiterate that these global issues closely link to interrelated and compound risks of food and energy security and hit vulnerable people harder, threatening their human security.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),\*<sup>1</sup> adopted by the UN in September 2015, are the agenda for the entire international community to tackle global issues in an integrated manner, including peace, the rule of law, and human rights, leaving no one behind. Japan, as a peace-loving nation and a responsible major power, is in a position to lead international cooperation, including for the SDGs, based on the concept of “human security.” In line with these views, Japan will continue to work to address and prevent interrelated and compound risks and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by the international community.



Achieving the SDGs requires cooperation within the international community beyond the conventional concept of developed and developing countries. It also requires action not only by governments and development agencies, but by all stakeholders, including private companies, local public entities, research institutions, civil society, and individuals. The Government of Japan provides multifaceted support by linking various initiatives using ODA as a catalyst and taking a deep approach so that the entire international community, including developing countries, can achieve the SDGs.

The Government of Japan actively works on achieving the SDGs both in Japan and abroad. It established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, with the Prime Minister as its head and all the Cabinet Ministers as its members, and formulated the “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles,” which sets the direction for the promotion of the SDGs.



Prime Minister Kishida delivering a statement at the SDG Summit 2023  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

While 2023 marked the “midpoint” toward achieving the SDGs by 2030, their achievement is in jeopardy as the international community faces compound crises. Amid such a difficult situation, at the “Summit for a New Global Financing Pact” held in June 2023, then Foreign Minister Hayashi emphasized the importance of three forms of solidarity: “solidarity with the private sector,” “solidarity in financing,” and “solidarity for ownership.” At the SDG Summit\*<sup>2</sup> in September, Prime Minister Kishida reiterated that, with the international community facing various challenges, now is the time to return to the starting point of the SDGs: the promise to “Leave No One Behind.” He then emphasized that “human security,” which Japan has consistently advocated, is a key to achieving the SDGs based on “human dignity,” expressing Japan’s determination to strongly lead the international community’s efforts to achieve the SDGs and thereby open the way to the future. Additionally, in December, Japan revised the “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles” to better align them with the challenges of the new era. Based on the revised new Implementation Guiding Principles, Japan will continue to work toward achieving the SDGs with the international community as a whole, while strengthening collaboration with various domestic and international actors.

\*1 See the glossary on page 32.

\*2 The SDG Summit is held every four years under the auspices of the UN General Assembly with the aim of accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. In 2023, it was convened on September 18 and 19, and Prime Minister Kishida participated in the Leader’s Dialogue “Unity and Solidarity” on September 19.

# Part IV

## Regional Profiles



Quality inspection training for producing high-quality rice seeds as part of the technical cooperation project "Rice Seed Production and Promotion" in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)

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## 1

## East Asia

East Asia consists of a variety of countries, which include least developed countries (LDCs)<sup>1</sup> such as Cambodia and Laos; countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines, which still face large income disparities domestically despite significant economic growth; and countries such as Viet Nam, which are transitioning to a market-driven economy.

Japan has long-established political, economic, and cultural relations with these countries, which are located at the center of the Indo-Pacific region. The region's stability and development are directly linked to the security and economic prosperity of Japan. From this perspective, Japan engages in development cooperation in light of the diverse socio-economic environments of East Asian countries and their changing development needs.

#### Japan's Efforts

Japan has contributed to the remarkable economic growth of East Asia through development cooperation that combines ODA with trade and investment, including the development of socio-economic foundations through "quality infrastructure" investment, support for institutional and human resources development, the promotion of trade, and the revitalization of private investment. In recent years, Japan aims to further enhance open regional cooperation and integration while sharing basic values, and to maintain consistent regional stability by promoting mutual understanding through youth exchanges, cultural exchanges, and projects to promote the Japanese language. In order to make Asia "a center of growth open to the world," Japan provides support to strengthen the region's growth potential and expand domestic demand in each country (see "Stories from the field" on page 140 for Japan's efforts in human resources development in Mongolia).

#### ■ Support for Southeast Asia

ASEAN countries<sup>2</sup> are located along Japan's sea lanes and have strong economic ties with Japan, with approximately 15,900 business establishments of Japanese companies operating in the region as of October 2022. The ASEAN region is of great importance to Japan, both politically and economically. ASEAN declared the establishment of the "ASEAN Community" (2015) and is making efforts to strengthen connectivity and narrow the development gaps within the region. Moreover,

the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)"<sup>\*</sup> (2019) advocates the rule of law, openness, freedom, transparency, and inclusivity as ASEAN's principles of action, sharing many fundamental principles with a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" promoted by Japan. At the ASEAN-Japan Summit in November 2020, the "Joint Statement of the 23rd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific" was adopted. The leaders reaffirmed the shared fundamental principles of the AOIP and FOIP and agreed to further reinforce the ASEAN-Japan Strategic Partnership through enhanced practical cooperation and synergy in the four areas outlined in the AOIP (maritime cooperation, connectivity, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and economic and other possible areas of cooperation). In 2023, which marked the historic milestone of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, a joint statement was adopted at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in September to establish the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). To conclude the 50th anniversary, the Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was held in Tokyo in December, and the leaders adopted the Joint Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, which outlined a new vision for cooperation and its Implementation Plan, which outlines 130 specific cooperation items.

Japan is enhancing cooperation in light of ASEAN's initiatives in this way and provides assistance through ODA in a wide range of areas such as infrastructure development, the rule of law, maritime safety, disaster risk reduction, health and medical care, and



The Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation held in December 2023 (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

<sup>1</sup> See the glossary on page 31.

<sup>2</sup> The 10 ASEAN member states are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.



peacebuilding, focusing on strengthening connectivity and narrowing the development gaps as its pillars of cooperation. Additionally, in light of the increasing importance of leveraging the financial resources of the private sector and Multilateral Development Banks in the area of development, at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in December, a policy was announced to boost the private investment for strengthening connectivity, climate change measures, and support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups aiming to mobilize \$35 billion in public and private funds over five years for the ASEAN region as a new effort in public-private partnership for finding solutions through co-creation.

With regard to strengthening connectivity, Japan supports the enhancement of ASEAN connectivity based on the “Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025,”<sup>3</sup> which aims to strengthen “physical connectivity,” “institutional connectivity,” and “people-to-people connectivity” in the region. Japan signed the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement (2019) to encourage ASEAN to consolidate its unity and centrality. In accordance with the Agreement, Japan conducted training on cybersecurity (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 35 for details), marine plastic litter management, public international law, and treatment of criminal offenders by FY2022. Moreover, in September 2023, Japan announced the “Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Connectivity Initiative,” which will further promote efforts to strengthen connectivity with structural and non-structural aspects. Based on this, Japan will work to strengthen multi-layered connectivity in a wide range of areas, including transport infrastructure development, digital, maritime cooperation, supply chains, electricity connectivity, and human and knowledge connectivity. It plans to conduct human resources development for 5,000 people over three years through technical cooperation.

In terms of infrastructure development, Japan works to promote “quality infrastructure” investment based on its past experiences of assisting Southeast Asian countries and in accordance with the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.”<sup>3</sup> One example is the “Technical Assistance Project to Establish the Philippine Railway Institute (PRI)” assisted through ODA in Metro Manila. As urban railways are being developed in Manila, there is a need for a sustainable system for developing human resources capable of carrying out advanced operations and maintenance of the railways. To correspond to this need, the Government

of the Philippines decided to establish PRI as an entity responsible for developing and supervising human resources working for railways. To establish PRI, Japan assisted in the construction of the PRI facility as part of a subway construction project with loan aid, provided simulators and other necessary training equipment with grant aid, and supported institutional building and capacity development through technical cooperation. Through this wide range of assistance, Japan contributes not only to the construction of railway infrastructure, but also to the development of railway maintenance and management capacities and related human resources.



Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Team explaining the effectiveness of oil blotters and providing guidance on their installation at the beach affected by the oil spilled from a capsized tanker off the coast of Mindoro Island in the central Philippines (Photo: JICA)

In regard to disaster risk reduction, since 2009, Japan has continuously contributed to strengthening disaster management and disaster response capacity in ASEAN with support for the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF),<sup>4</sup> including the establishment of a Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN (DELSA), capacity building of the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), and the AHA Centre Executive (ACE) Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management Programme (ACE-LEDMP). Japan implemented the “Project for Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management” (ARCH)<sup>5</sup> from 2016 to 2021 and made many achievements, including holding regional coordination drills for disaster health management teams from ASEAN countries and developing standard operation procedures related to disaster health management. Furthermore, in the subsequent Phase 2 Project for

<sup>3</sup> See the glossary “Quality Infrastructure” on page 40.

<sup>4</sup> A fund established in 2006 to support ASEAN’s endeavors to advance integration by correcting regional disparities, aiming at the establishment of an ASEAN Community. Japan announced its contribution of a total of ¥7.5 billion (approximately \$70.1 million) at the 2005 ASEAN-Japan Summit, and later contributed a total of \$100 million to the “JAIF 2.0” in 2013. Japan provided additional contributions in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

<sup>5</sup> A project to create a framework to implement the policy of the ASEAN Declaration on “One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One” (2014 ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management). In 2017, the “ASEAN Leader’s Declaration (ALD) on Disaster Health Management” (2017) clearly incorporated the need for the activities engaged in through ARCH.



A regional collaboration drill conducted in Indonesia with Thailand as the lead country with the aim of strengthening disaster health management systems in the ASEAN region (Photo: JICA)

Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Disaster Health Management (ARCH2), Japan also works to strengthen coordination capacities in this field through the co-creation of knowledge on disaster health management within the region, including by hosting the ASEAN Academic Conference on Disaster Health Management and promoting mutual learning through peer support among ASEAN countries.

Japan fully supports the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, including by contributing approximately ¥5.5 billion (\$50 million) to JAIF in 2020. This is part of Japan's contributions to strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN region to address public health emergencies and to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious diseases. In October 2021 and February 2022, Japan held online training for public health officials from ASEAN countries responsible for the Centre's operations. Japan also makes arrangements to dispatch experts to the Centre.

With regard to the area of human resources development, Japan works on developing approximately 80,000 people over five years from 2019, including in the digital sector such as artificial intelligence (AI), under the "Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0" announced at the ASEAN-Japan Summit in 2018. Japan provides support to Thailand in establishing "Kosen schools (Technical Colleges)," which are unique to the Japanese education system and provide Kosen education with the same standards as those in Japan, as part of its contribution to the development of industrial human resources in the ASEAN region. In addition, Japan implements the "Innovative Asia" initiative, which supports the circulation of competent human resources in Asian countries including ASEAN through studying abroad at Japanese graduate schools or other institutions, internships at Japanese companies, etc., with the aim of

promoting innovation in Asia including Japan. Over the five years from FY2017 to FY2021, Japan had accepted people from all across Asia under this project.

Japan also engages in economic cooperation, holding investment seminars, invitation programs, and the "BIMP-EAGA+Japan" dialogue for the East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).<sup>6</sup> In 2021, the construction of fishing port facilities and a fish market was completed on Biak Island in Papua Province, Indonesia, and since 2022 tuna unloaded at the port has been exported to Japan. In addition, the construction of fishing ports and markets began in 2023 in the other remote islands of Sabang (Aceh Province), Morotai (North Maluku Province), Moa (Maluku Province), and Saumlaki (Maluku Province).

With regard to the Mekong region,<sup>7</sup> which has great potential for development among the ASEAN countries, the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting has been held since 2009. Around once every three years, it is held in Japan, where Japan and the Mekong countries adopt an assistance policy for the region.

Japan has been focusing on strengthening connectivity critical for economic growth in the region and making progress on the projects under the "Tokyo Strategy 2018,"<sup>8</sup> such as the development of the Sihanoukville Port in Cambodia and the Vientiane International Airport in Laos, the construction of the Ho Chi Minh City urban railway in Viet Nam, and the construction of the Mass Transit System (Red Line) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Based on the "Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030" announced in 2019, Japan makes 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. As a concrete effort for this, Japan provides support for community-based socio-economic development and the realization of the SDGs in the Mekong countries through the "KUSANONE Mekong SDGs Initiative." Japan will continue to promote the SDGs in the Mekong region based on the "Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030" in order to make the region more sustainable, diverse, and inclusive.

Furthermore, to support the implementation of development projects by private companies and others and contribute to the development of the Mekong region, Japan promotes the "Five Points of Cooperation:" (i) promotion of loans and investments for the private sector, (ii) grant assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects that are designed to assist

<sup>6</sup> A regional framework established in 1994 by Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to promote economic growth in the developing regions of these four countries.

<sup>7</sup> A region including the five countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

<sup>8</sup> Adopted at the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in Tokyo in 2018. It outlines the direction of Japan's cooperation with Mekong.

small communities, (iii) cooperation on the rule of law, (iv) maritime cooperation, and (v) cooperation on the development of supply chains, including through the “Mekong SDGs Investment Partnership.”

Japan provided Laos, which holds the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024, with IT equipment and vehicles for the preparation of relevant meetings and conferences. Additionally, Japan signed an agreement on the provision of equipment necessary for clearing unexploded ordnance and launched in January 2023 the “Project for Integrated Energy Master Plan towards Sustainable Carbon Neutral Society,” which aims to formulate a master plan on the long-term energy transition for achieving a carbon-neutral society.



Training at the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), a training facility, using the latest Japanese-made mine detectors for eight demining experts from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) (Photo: JICA)

### ■ Assistance for Myanmar

In Myanmar, since the coup d'état in February 2021, the Government of Japan has consistently urged the Myanmar military to take concrete actions to (i) immediately stop the violence, (ii) release those who are detained, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and (iii) swiftly restore Myanmar's democratic political system. In view of the current situation in the country, Japan decided not to initiate a new ODA project with the military regime.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate, and delivering humanitarian assistance is an urgent issue. Therefore, Japan proactively provides humanitarian assistance via international organizations, NGOs, and other organizations, directly benefiting the people of Myanmar, and has provided a total of more than \$109.5 million in humanitarian assistance to date. In February 2023, through numerous



In Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, Myanmar, a Japanese NGO helping local residents learn the types and characteristics of disabilities at the workshop for community volunteers (Photo: Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan))

international organizations and the ASEAN Secretariat, Japan decided to provide assistance to those who are affected by the coup with food, medical items, shelters, water and sanitation infrastructure, nutritional improvement, medical services, access to education, and measures to combat illegal drugs, and the implementation is ongoing. In addition, in response to the damage caused by the powerful cyclone “Mocha” that struck Myanmar and Bangladesh in May, Japan supported humanitarian operations in the fields of food, water and sanitation, and other areas through international organizations by providing Emergency Grant Aid.

One example where the Government of Japan provides humanitarian assistance through a Japanese NGO is the Japan Platform (JPF)<sup>9</sup> that operates in the fields of food and supplies, water and sanitation, health and medical care, protection, and education within Myanmar and Thailand. In addition, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, project implementation is underway in fields such as health and medical care, education, and energy, which are conducive to medium- to long-term socio-economic development in Myanmar and Thailand. Based on the local situation, and humanitarian needs and emergencies, the Government of Japan will continue to work with international organizations and NGOs and to actively deliver humanitarian assistance to the people in need in Myanmar, in order to reach out to those who are facing difficulties.

<sup>9</sup> See the glossary on page 137.





## 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. The initiative shares many fundamental principles with a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" promoted by Japan.

### **Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025)**

An action plan for strengthening ASEAN connectivity that was adopted at the ASEAN Summit in 2016 as the successor to the "Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity" (adopted in 2010). It is positioned as a part of "ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together" (adopted in 2015). The document stipulates "sustainable infrastructure," "digital innovation," "seamless logistics," "regulatory excellence," and "people mobility," as its major strategies, and presents priority initiatives under each strategy.

# MASTER TECHNIQUES

from Japan  
to the World

3

## Contributing to Malaysia's Palm Oil Industry with Technology from Japanese Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)



Malaysia is a major producer of palm oil, which is extracted from oil palm fruits, and its exports amount up to approximately ¥2 trillion. However, the problem of processing agricultural waste, such as oil palm trunks (OPT), which are produced when cutting down old palms, as well as oil palm fronds and empty fruit bunches, has become an issue for which a balance between development and environmental protection is required. Oil palm trees are logged and replanted approximately every 25 years to maintain oil production levels. Consequently, as many as 75 million old oil palm trees are cut down every year. Abandoned OPT on the plantation sites not only emits greenhouse gases, including methane gas, but also causes the spread of soil-borne diseases, making it difficult to reuse the land in some cases.



Trunks of old oil palm trees logged and piled up in an oil palm plantation (Photo: KOSUGI Akihiko)

In response to this situation, the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) implements the "Project on Sustainable Replantation of Oil Palm by Adding Value to Oil Palm Trunk through Scientific and Technological Innovation" from 2019 as part of the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS)\*1 in collaboration with the University of Science, Malaysia (USM). This project conducts scientific and economic assessments of the negative impact of abandoning OPT after logging. It also examines ways to maintain the healthy state of palm plantations by upcycling OPT without abandoning them on site, and to sustain palm plantations without expanding their acreage. To this end, JIRCAS and USM work to develop technology for manufacturing high-value-added products from OPT and to demonstrate its effectiveness, as important targets.

Project leader Dr. KOSUGI Akihiko, who has been conducting research on the utilization of OPT waste at JIRCAS since 2004, talks about the achievements of this project as follows. "We presented our research findings on the impact of OPT abandonment on soil to the Government of Malaysia and plantation owners, which helped them understand the benefits of removing waste from the plantation sites. The use of palm biomass is increasing both in Japan and overseas by turning collected waste materials into useful products such as fuel pellets, plywood, and fertilizer. For example, Panasonic Corporation developed a technology called "PALM LOOP" that makes upcycled wooden boards from oil palm waste. Thanks to this technology, the waste wood can now be used

as a material for furniture. By implementing research results in the real world, we aim to add value to OPT as a resource and create new industries."

In a pilot project to commercialize OPT, the knowledge of Japanese engineers and the technical skills of local factories in Japan were utilized to develop a "Multi Biomass Treatment Process" that reduces the environmental impact of pellet manufacturing. This process can pelletize not only OPT waste but also its branches and fronds, as well as empty fruit bunches discharged from palm oil factories. The project intends to achieve carbon neutrality in the palm oil industry by disseminating this process in the future. In addition, it reaches out to the agencies of the Government of Malaysia to certify not only palm oil but also the biomass produced by the palm oil industry as a sustainable product.

Dr. Kosugi aims to collaborate with Japanese companies to realize the social implementation of the palm biomass project, including this OPT waste material: "Since this series of results was achieved by combining the brilliant and superior technology of Japanese SMEs concentrated in downtown areas called Shitamachi, we named it the 'Shitamachi Biomass' initiative. We hope to apply this concept to the export industry not just in Malaysia but also in the entire Southeast Asian region, utilizing Japanese technology for the world while also revitalizing Japanese manufacturing itself."

Dr. Kosugi launched a venture company in 2022 in view of continuing the project after its conclusion in the SATREPS framework. "The shortest way for the social implementation of the technology we have developed is to create our own way for its use. For the people of Malaysia, it is important to ensure profitability first, but on top of that, it is important to raise environmental awareness. We would like to continue working to expand the biomass business in Malaysia by achieving both the stabilization of the procurement of raw materials and commercial viability of the factory, which will lead to sustainable land use and environmental conservation," says Dr. Kosugi about his future prospects.



Dr. Kosugi (seventh from the right) and students engaging in the research in front of the SATREPS Oil Palm Trunk Research Laboratory launched at USM (Photo: KOSUGI Akihiko)

\*1 See the glossary on page 38.

The Southwest Asian region has approximately 1.8 billion people and has maintained a high economic growth rate in recent years, offering an attractive market and production base to Japanese companies and attracting attention as an investment destination. It is also a strategically important region because of its location on critical sea lanes that connect Japan with the Middle East and Africa.

At the same time, the Southwest Asian region still faces many development issues, including infrastructure development, the development of primary education and health and medical care systems, the reform of legal institutions, response to natural disasters, the consolidation of democracy, and actions on the environment and climate change. In particular, poverty reduction is a major challenge, with approximately one-third of the world's poor accounted to be living in this region.<sup>10</sup>

Japan has traditionally maintained friendly relationships with the countries of Southwest Asia and has been providing assistance to the region as its largest partner for many years. Harnessing the region's economic potential, Japan provides assistance in a wide range of areas such as socio-economic development, democratization and consolidation of democracy, peacebuilding, and humanitarian and recovery efforts after natural disasters.

### Japan's Efforts

India has been one of the largest recipients of Japan's yen loans. Japan has supported India for the development of economic and social infrastructure, including in the fields of electric power and transportation, the improvement of the investment environment, and human resources development, which would contribute to enhancing connectivity and strengthening industrial competitiveness. In addition, in support of its sustainable and inclusive growth, Japan plays a significant role in India's growth through support for various fields, including support of the forestry sector with the aim of not only dealing with climate change but also improving livelihoods through effective utilization of forest products, support for the development of health and medical systems, and poverty reduction (see "Stories from the Field" on page 80 on the Campus Development Project of Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad).

In March 2023, Japan and India exchanged notes for yen loans with a total amount of approximately ¥883 billion. These loans finance road construction to improve



Conducting maintenance work on a wind turbine in the State of Andhra Pradesh, India (Photo: JICA)

connectivity, the construction of facilities designed to strengthen the healthcare system, the construction of a high-speed rail linking Mumbai and Ahmedabad, railway construction in Patna city, forest and biodiversity conservation for tackling climate change, infrastructure development to increase agricultural production and farmers' incomes, and government actions toward the SDGs. On the occasion of the Japan-India Summit Meetings in March and September 2023, the two leaders confirmed that they would continue to promote the "Project for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail" as a flagship project of Japan and India. Once the project is completed, the travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad is expected to be shortened to approximately two hours, while it currently takes at least five hours and 20 minutes by express train (see "Featured Project" on page 40 for the "Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project").

As recent years have witnessed remarkable development in Bangladesh and an increasing number of Japanese companies operating in the country, the "Comprehensive Partnership" between the two countries was upgraded to a "Strategic Partnership" on the occasion of Prime Minister Hasina's visit to Japan in April 2023. Japan promotes development cooperation under this partnership along with the "Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B)" initiative, which consists of the three pillars: (i) development of economic infrastructure, (ii) improvement of the investment environment, and (iii) enhancement of connectivity. Furthermore, the new plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," announced by Prime Minister Kishida in March, presented, as a concrete example of contributions to multi-layered connectivity, the idea of regarding northeastern India and Bangladesh,

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) website (note that Afghanistan is included in South Asia)  
<https://hdr.undp.org/content/2023-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI>



etc. as a united economic sphere, and developing an industrial value chain linking the Bay of Bengal to northeastern India to facilitate regional growth. Thus, Japan engages in development cooperation in a way to contribute to realizing this idea. In 2023, Japan approved six yen loan projects totaling approximately ¥400 billion to Bangladesh, including the “Matarbari Port Development Project (II).” Moreover, Japan provides grant aid to Bangladesh for human resources development of young government officials.

In light of the displaced persons fleeing from their homes in Rakhine State, Myanmar, to Bangladesh due to the deteriorating security situation, Japan has expressed its appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh for accepting the displaced persons for a prolonged period, reaffirmed at summit and other meetings its intention to offer continued support and reduce the burden on host communities, and delivered various forms of support to benefit both the host communities and displaced persons. In January 2022, in addition to the support already provided to the camp for the displaced persons in Cox’s Bazar District, Japan, ahead of other countries, provided Emergency Grant Aid of \$2 million in total for displaced persons who are relocated to Bhasan Char. Since then, in cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Japan has continued to support both the camp in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char, aiming to improve the living conditions of displaced persons through the provision of humanitarian assistance including food, water and sanitation, health, shelter, and protection, as well as education and skills training. Meanwhile, under the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, Japanese NGOs have provided assistance for improving women’s livelihoods and protecting children in the communities hosting displaced persons. Japan also supports the Japan Platform (JPF)<sup>11</sup> to improve hygiene and sanitation, provide medical treatment, and protect women and children. Japan’s grant aid to these displaced persons from January 2022 to June 2023 amounts to approximately ¥6.6 billion.

Sri Lanka, which is located at a key point along sea lanes connecting Asia with the Middle East and Africa, has traditionally been a country that is friendly to Japan. Japan has been working on strengthening cooperation with Sri Lanka in areas such as enhancing connectivity and the maritime sector, toward the realization of a FOIP. Japan also continues to support the regions where development has lagged behind due to the impact of past conflicts and provides them with assistance in areas such as livelihood improvement, industrial and human resources development with a focus on the fishery and agricultural sectors, and natural disaster response. Given

that the country has been facing a crisis due to shortages of necessities such as food, medicine, fertilizer, and fuel since the economic crisis occurred in April 2022, Japan has assisted the country in addressing the humanitarian crisis and decided to provide ¥5 billion in grant aid in the health and medical sector in February 2023.

The Maldives, like Sri Lanka, is located strategically along the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean and has traditionally been a country that is friendly to Japan. In view of this, Japan has been strengthening cooperation with the country toward realizing a FOIP. In 2023, Japan provided the Maldives, which faces security vulnerabilities as an island nation, with grant aid to improve law enforcement capacity through the supply of fireboats and coast guard equipment.

With the world’s fifth largest population, and its geopolitical importance as the interface between Asia and the Middle East, Pakistan plays a vital role in the international community’s efforts to eradicate terrorism. The stable development of Pakistan is important from the perspective of peace and stability in the surrounding regions, as well as in the international community as a whole. In response to the flood damage in Pakistan since June 2022, the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan was held in January 2023, where Japan pledged an additional assistance of approximately \$77 million even after 2023 in areas such as disaster risk reduction, health, and agriculture for the reconstruction and further development of Pakistan. As part of the assistance, Japan decided to provide support for the renovation of a disaster-affected elementary school (see “Featured Project” on page 98 for efforts in Pakistan). In addition, even in 2023, Japan provided grant aid to support vaccinations for polio eradication in Pakistan, where wild poliovirus remains endemic. Furthermore, Japan provided grant aid to support the human resources development targeted at young government officials (see Part III, 3 (2) on page 73 for details of support to Pakistan related to polio).



Japanese experts inspecting the status of the construction of local waterworks to improve water supply services in Nepal (Photo: JICA)

<sup>11</sup> See the glossary on page 137.

The establishment of democracy, stability, and prosperity in Nepal, a country that has had traditionally friendly relations with Japan is important for Japan to ensure the stability of the entire Southwest Asia region, which is also politically and economically important to Japan. Since the major earthquake in Nepal in 2015, under the theme of “Build Back Better,” Japan has provided support for the renovation and reconstruction of bridges, hospitals, and other public infrastructure facilities, as well as houses and schools. Japan also carries out a range of technical cooperation activities related to strengthening the government capacity in disaster risk reduction and ensuring the compliance with the national building code. In 2023, Japan provided grant aid to support the development of human resources

with a focus on young government officials and to build a tertiary medical facility, which will serve as a hub for medical care, covering a wide geographic area (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 135 for initiatives of Japanese companies in Nepal).

Japan’s development cooperation toward Bhutan has achieved steady results, especially in the improvement of agricultural productivity, development of economic infrastructure such as road networks and bridges, and human resources development. In 2023, Japan provided yen loans as financial support to implement, among other things, measures to promote green growth with renewable natural resources, and to build a self-reliant and sustainable nation with an optimal balance between rural and urban development.

## Featured Project



### Aiming to Expand the Garment Industry Market through Human Resources Development

**Project for Skills Development and Market Diversification (PSDMD) of Garment Industry of Pakistan**

Technical Cooperation (May 2016 – December 2022)

**Pakistan**



In Pakistan, the textile industry is the largest industry in the manufacturing sector, accounting for approximately 10% of gross domestic product (GDP) and 50% of total exports. On the other hand, many of the export products are low-value-added products, such as cotton yarn, cotton cloth, and towels, and therefore the challenge is to improve production skills to strengthen its competitiveness in the international market. In addition, while women play an active role in the textile industry in other countries, the number of women working in textile factories in Pakistan is limited. There is a need to develop human resources capable of producing high-value-added products, while promoting women’s participation in economic activities through vocational training and other measures.

In light of this situation, Japan supported the development of human resources who could contribute to adding high value to Pakistan’s garment products, placing an emphasis on including a large number of women in training. Japan worked to improve



Fashion show by a target vocational training institute (Photo: JICA)



A Japanese expert providing technical assistance to teachers at a target vocational training institute (Photo: JICA)

the quality of training courses at vocational training institutes in the cities of Lahore and Faisalabad, and Japanese experts provided technical assistance on fashion designing, pattern making, sewing, and quality control. Furthermore, Japan encourages the target institutes to build cooperative relationships with private companies so that graduates of the institutes can be introduced to the partner companies. This partnership promotes the supply of high-skilled human resources to the industry, as well as graduates’ employment.

As a result, 1,160 women received training during the project period. Approximately 47% of them found employment in companies, and the monthly income of the beneficiaries increased by 25,000 Pakistan Rupees (PKR) (approximately ¥13,000), which is equivalent to 70% of the average household income before the project. Many other graduates also use the skills they learned to earn some income at home and improve their livelihoods.

Japan will continue to support the development of the major industries and the promotion of women’s participation in economic activities in Pakistan.

The Pacific Island countries are Japan's "neighbors" bound by the Pacific Ocean and also share deep historical ties with Japan. In addition, with vast Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ),<sup>12</sup> these countries are key to maritime transport activities and provide essential fishing grounds for bonito and tuna fisheries.

Many Pacific Island countries are relatively new independent states with the urgent task of achieving economic self-reliance. In addition, they face common challenges particular to small island countries, such as small-scale economies dependent on specific industries, geographically displaced territories over a vast area of the sea, difficulty in accessing international markets, and vulnerability to natural disasters.

### 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 entire region. In addition to bilateral engagements with the 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. Following up on PALM9, held in 2021, Japan has been providing assistance, for the period of three years since 2021, in the five priority areas: (i) COVID-19 Response and Recovery, (ii) Sustainable Oceans based on the Rule of Law, (iii) Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, (iv) Strengthening the Foundation for Sustainable and Resilient Economic Development, and (v) People-to-People Exchanges and Human Resource Development. Furthermore, in preparation for PALM10, which is scheduled to be held in 2024, Japan has been advancing "all-Japan efforts" to resolve the issues facing Pacific Island countries following on from PALM9 while holding a meeting of the Interagency Committee for Promoting Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries, an inter-agency coordination mechanism.

Japan also promotes cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF),<sup>13</sup> a regional cooperation framework comprised of Pacific Island countries and territories. At the annual meeting in 2022, the PIF unveiled "The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent," which presents a vision and strategic measures for the ideal state of politics, economy, etc. in the Pacific Islands

region in 2050. Japan has expressed strong support for the strategy and continues cooperation based on its own strengths (see "Featured Projects" on pages 74 and 100 for cases of support to the Pacific Islands region).



A JICA expert giving instructions on the necessary techniques for a diagnosis of machine failures to officials of the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities of the Marshall Islands (Photo: Chewy Lin Photography & Cinematography)

On the Japan-U.S.-Australia joint support for the East Micronesia Cable jointly announced in December 2021 by six countries, including Japan, the United States, Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia, Japan exchanged notes with Kiribati and Nauru on grant aid in June 2023. As the same month saw the joint announcement of the six countries on the launch of the components of manufacturing and installation of undersea cables, the project implementation is well underway.

With Vanuatu, hit by a cyclone in March, Japan provided emergency relief goods through JICA. In October, Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport in Papua New Guinea opened with support from Japan, and then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Horii attended the opening ceremony. As a gateway of Lae City, the second largest city following the capital Port Moresby, and the industrial and logistics hub in the northern region, the airport will strengthen the connectivity of the region. It was named "Nadzab Tomodachi" International Airport, initiated by Prime Minister Marape, symbolizing the ties between the two countries.

In collaboration with the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and other partners, Japan will continue to support Pacific Island countries in addressing climate change, which is a threat to the countries, strengthening

<sup>12</sup> Maritime zones where a sovereign country has certain economic rights that can be established outside its territorial waters.

<sup>13</sup> As of November 2023, the PIF is comprised of 16 member countries and two territories, including Australia, New Zealand, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Nauru, Niue, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia.



health and medical systems, recovering the economies impacted by COVID-19, and responding to emergencies, including for disasters. Through such engagements, Japan will work hand in hand with the region in building a resilient, stable, and prosperous Pacific Islands region.



The opening ceremony of Nadzab Tomodachi International Airport, which was constructed with assistance from Japan, attended by then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Horii

## Featured Project



### Coastal Resources Protection Efforts Led by Local Communities

**Project for Promotion of the Grace of the Sea in the Coastal Villages in Vanuatu (Phase 3)**

Technical Cooperation (March 2017 – February 2024)

**Vanuatu**



In Vanuatu, a part of the Melanesia region\*<sup>1</sup> located in the southwest of the Pacific, in recent years, its coastal resources have been in a state of constant deterioration due to environmental destruction caused by development in coastal areas, overfishing of marine resources, and the transition of ecosystems associated with climate change.

In addressing the situation, Japan works on the development of a mechanism to manage coastal resources in a sustainable manner in order to prevent the deterioration due to overfishing and other factors. The mechanism is a combination of traditional resource management, such as establishing no-fishing areas that have been made by the initiative of coastal communities, and the development of alternative livelihoods for local residents, such as shell crafting. This mechanism is called the “Community-Based Coastal Resource Management (CB-CRM)” approach, and Japan provides support to enable the Department of Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture, Quarantine, Forestry and Fisheries of Vanuatu, to manage coastal resources in cooperation with coastal communities. In Phase 3 of



Transplantation of corals (Photo: JICA)

this project, Japan particularly works on the applicability of the CB-CRM approach so that it can be disseminated to other Melanesian countries facing common issues, by standardizing the training program and encouraging its introduction to neighboring countries.

Through this cooperation, an increasing number of fishing villages in Vanuatu have established coastal resource management areas by using this approach, and appropriate resource management is now widely applied. Even when it becomes difficult to transport goods from outside the islands due to natural disasters such as typhoons, fisheries products from well-managed coastal waters serve as emergency food for local residents, and its effectiveness is highly praised.

Japan will continue to support sustainable coastal resource management in which local communities play a leading role.



Environmental education using coral regeneration methods for elementary school students (Photo: JICA)

<sup>\*1</sup> A sub region located in the southwest of the Pacific Island countries region, consisting of the region's four largest countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu).

## 4

## Latin America and the Caribbean

As a major force in the international arena, Latin America and the Caribbean has an enormous emerging market with a population of approximately 660 million<sup>14</sup> and a regional GDP of approximately \$6.8 trillion.<sup>15</sup> Many countries in the region share fundamental values and principles with Japan, such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, and are strategically important from diplomatic and economic perspectives. Also, since the region is a supplier of minerals, energy, and food, and particularly given the current circumstances where food and energy supplies are seriously affected globally, it has become increasingly important in terms of strengthening supply chains and economic security in the international community including Japan. In addition, this region has the world's largest Nikkei community (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) with a population of approximately 2.4 million, and there are also descendants who crossed the ocean to come to Japan and support Japanese industry. Thus, the personal and historic bond with Japan has been traditionally strong and this helps Japan maintain a stable and friendly relationship with the region for a long time.

On the other hand, the Latin American and the Caribbean region still has major developmental needs to be addressed as common challenges facing the international community, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, vulnerabilities in the areas of health and medical care, and poverty. There are also many countries in this region having vulnerabilities particular to small island states. In addition, the region is confronted by challenges, such as migrants who aim to immigrate to North America to flee from poverty and insecurity in their countries, Venezuelan refugees fleeing to neighboring countries due to the worsening political, economic, and social situations, and the situation in Haiti where the domestic political, economic, and security environments have continued to deteriorate since the murder of the president in July 2021.

Japan focuses on maintaining and strengthening friendly relations with the Latin American and the Caribbean region by providing assistance unique to Japan (such as “quality infrastructure,” disaster risk reduction and mitigation utilizing Japan’s experiences, clean energy technology, “Visible Japanese Development Cooperation” through technical cooperation by volunteers and others) in ways that consider each country’s income level, situations, and needs. Through

such assistance, Japan strives to help the region realize resilient and sustainable development. Japan also supports and leverages the Nikkei people and their communities that form the foundation of strong ties with Japan, and will further strengthen its multi-layered network of human resources based on trust.

### Japan's Efforts

In January 2023, then Foreign Minister Hayashi visited Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, and Argentina, and reaffirmed that Japan will work to strengthen bilateral economic relations, cooperation, and exchanges with them. He also reaffirmed that, in view of the current severe situation facing the international community, Japan will work more closely with these countries in maintaining and strengthening a free and open international order based on the rule of law, as well as addressing important global issues such as climate change. Through these efforts, Japan strives to further cultivate its relations with the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

### ■ Efforts toward Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Issues

While the Latin American and the Caribbean region is blessed with abundant nature, the region is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions. Therefore, it is of great importance that Japan supports this region with its knowledge and experience in the field of disaster risk reduction.

Japan provides assistance utilizing its expertise in the



Local residents crossing a bridge built through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project in Bolivar Province, Ecuador

<sup>14</sup> World Bank website (as of December 2023)  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?end=2022&locations=ZJ&start=1989>

<sup>15</sup> World Bank website (as of December 2023)  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?end=2022&locations=ZJ&start=1989>

disaster risk reduction to the Latin American countries facing the Pacific Ocean, such as Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru, where earthquakes frequently strike. Japan also provided emergency relief goods through JICA to Chile, which was affected by forest fires in 2023. For Caribbean countries, Japan delivers various assistance and helps them overcome the particular vulnerability of small island countries to natural disasters. In recent years, Japan has been dispatching experts in disaster risk reduction to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDEMA) and helping enhance the capacity for formulating disaster risk reduction policies in the region (see “Featured Project ” on page 104 regarding disaster risk reduction assistance in Honduras).

Moreover, Japan is engaged in a wide range of cooperation in the efforts to address environmental issues in the region, including scientific and technological research on climate phenomena, the conservation of biodiversity, and the protection of the Amazon rainforest using remote sensing. In recent years, the influx of large amounts of Sargassum seaweed has become a serious issue in the Caribbean region. In view of the situation, in 2022, Japan decided to provide Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados with grant aid of approximately ¥1.4 billion to remove Sargassum seaweed through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Furthermore, in 2023, as part of the effort to respond to the same issue, Japan decided to provide the Dominican Republic with grant aid for the purchase of equipment made by Japanese companies (beach cleaners, dump trucks, etc.).

### ■ Economic and Social Infrastructure Development

In order to promote economic and social infrastructure development of the Latin American and the Caribbean region, Japan actively engages in developing water supply and sewerage infrastructure in metropolitan regions and the countryside. In September 2023, Japan decided to provide Paraguay with grant aid for the purchase of equipment to major vocational training schools and help break away from its agriculture-dependent economy and pursue industrial diversification. In addition, Japan works on spreading its terrestrial digital broadcasting system (ISDB-T) <sup>16</sup> through public-private collaboration. As of December 2023, 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Japanese system. For these countries, Japan supports technical transfer and human resources development to achieve smooth introduction of the system (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 34 regarding support for the introduction of the Japanese system).

<sup>16</sup> See <sup>19</sup> on page 34.

### ■ Initiatives in the Areas of Health and Medical Care, and Education

Due to the underdeveloped medical system, non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and tropical diseases are still serious public health concerns for the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Therefore, establishing a system enabling rapid and accurate diagnosis and treatment is needed.



A Japanese expert providing guidance on screening for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Juigalpa City, Nicaragua (Photo: JICA)

In Bolivia, improving medical equipment was a particularly urgent issue. In June 2023, Japan decided to provide Bolivia with grant aid of ¥300 million and has installed medical equipment utilizing its advanced medical technology in the country's national medical institutions.

Japan makes continuous effort for the Nikkei communities in various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as providing support for the welfare facilities of the Nikkei communities, accepting trainees, and dispatching JOCVs (see Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 139 for collaboration between the Nikkei community in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan, and “Featured Project” on page 141 for support for young Nikkei people in Bolivia).

Assistance in the sector of education is extremely important for Latin American and the Caribbean countries, where poverty still persists and education is under-budgeted. Based on the idea that education is crucial as an “investment in people,” Japan has continuously provided El Salvador with technical cooperation in mathematics and arithmetic education since 2021.

### ■ Assistance for Central American Migrants and Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants

The Central American region faces the problem of migrants who seek to immigrate to the United States and Mexico, fleeing poverty and insecurity in their country. Japan provides support for the measures to address the root causes of their migration such as poverty, insecurity, and disasters. Moreover, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Food Programme (WFP), Japan provides



El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico with assistance for the promotion of voluntary repatriation of migrants, prevention of outflow of migrants, and social reintegration of returnees.

Due to the deterioration of the economic and social conditions in Venezuela, approximately 7.72 million refugees and migrants have flowed mainly to neighboring countries as of September 2023. This has caused the deterioration in the living conditions of the host community residents and the instability of the region, and the lack of adequate response has been a challenge. In February 2023, Japan announced its decision to provide Brazil and Peru, which host displaced persons from Venezuela, with assistance through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with the aim of supporting social integration, including protection and vocational training for the vulnerable people. In September, in light of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Venezuela, Japan provided food assistance through WFP. Additionally, in October, Japan decided to provide humanitarian assistance through IOM, such as protection activities and the development of shelter for women and youth in the most vulnerable situations, as well as enhancement of access to information and support to local communities, humanitarian organizations, and other entities.

#### ■ Support for Haiti in Response to its Worsening Security Situation

In Haiti, especially since 2021, there have been increases in violence and kidnappings against civilians by armed groups, which have become more influential. Nevertheless, the Haitian National Police (HNP), which should play a central role in improving security in the country, is short of both personnel and equipment. In view of this situation, the dispatch of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to Haiti was decided at the United Nations in October 2023, and Japan

supported this decision.

Japan assists in stabilizing the security, economy, and society in Haiti, while working with the U.S. and other member countries of G7, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Furthermore, in response to the decision to dispatch the MSS Mission, Japan has decided to provide additional support of approximately ¥2 billion to contribute to the MSS Mission through capacity building and other efforts for the HNP.

#### ■ South-South Cooperation

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico are building a strong track record in South-South cooperation.\* With these countries, Japan has developed partnership programs on triangular cooperation.\* Based on such partnerships, Japan collaborated with Argentina in 2023, for example, to provide assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, Japan cooperated with Mexico in introducing production systems for non-traditional tropical fruits in northern countries of Central America. In Chile, Japan implements human resources development programs through triangular cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, in 2023, Japan held an online seminar on floods and landslides for Latin American and the Caribbean countries. In Brazil, many years of cooperation from Japan resulted in the widespread use of the Japanese-style community police system. Building on this experience and the framework of triangular cooperation, Brazilian experts are currently dispatched to Central American countries to pass on their know-how in the field of community policing.

In order to provide more effective and efficient assistance, Japan works with regional organizations such as the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the CARICOM to formulate regional projects related to common development issues in the Latin American and the Caribbean region.



## Glossary

### South-South cooperation / Triangular cooperation

South-South cooperation refers to cooperation 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, takes place in countries that have similarities in terms of natural environments, linguistic, cultural, and economic backgrounds, and development processes. When supported by developed countries, donors, or international organizations, such South-South cooperation between developing countries is referred to as “triangular cooperation.”



## Aiming to Reduce the Risk of Natural Disasters

**Project for Control and Mitigation of Landslide in Tegucigalpa Metropolitan Area**  
 Technical Cooperation (February 2019 – December 2022)  
**Honduras**



In Honduras, frequent natural disasters such as hurricanes are obstacles to sustainable development. Tegucigalpa Municipality, the capital of Honduras, is a city developed in a basin that is prone to landslides and floods caused by rainfall.

As the capital's population grows, so does the demand for housing, even in areas with high disaster risk. Taking disaster risk reduction measures, including those for landslides, is a major issue. However, since the administration did not have adequate information gathering and analysis methods or systems for the management and usage of land, land risk assessments were not conducted appropriately.

After a huge hurricane struck the capital and caused severe flood damage in 1998, Japan started contributing to the risk reduction of landslide disasters in Tegucigalpa, such as by constructing landslide prevention facilities, through grant aid.

In this project, to make the past cooperation even more effective, Japan provided support through technical cooperation to Tegucigalpa City and other organizations to enhance their capacity to respond to landslides. Specifically, Japan provided technical assistance by utilizing Japanese knowledge and experience in landslide risk assessment, designing, constructing, and maintaining countermeasures, developing checklists for measuring the hazard



Rockfall retaining wall constructed through the "Project for Control and Mitigation of Landslide"

level of slopes, and making hazard maps. Tegucigalpa City highly praised the success of this project and secured its own budget to design and construct new countermeasures by utilizing technology transferred from Japan. Japan's assistance has developed into an autonomous initiative on the part of Honduras.

Japan will continue to support the disaster risk reduction efforts of developing countries, utilizing its knowledge and experience, toward the realization of sustainable development.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has deteriorated the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and its neighboring countries and destabilized Ukraine's economy and society. The situation has also disrupted global supply chains across the world, bringing into sharp relief new challenges for the entire international community, regarding food and energy security, which form the basis for people to live with dignity, as well as the maintenance and strengthening of a free and open trading system. Such compound crises are by no means "someone else's problem" for Japan, and have seriously affected both the life of Japanese citizens and the business of Japanese companies.

Taking the consistent position that Russia's outrageous act should not be tolerated and that it is necessary to advance support for Ukraine and its neighboring countries, Japan has been working with the international community, including G7 members, since the outset of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Regarding the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine, Japan also works to further promote joint support by the public and private sectors, including through the organization of the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction held in February 2024.

Many countries in Central and Eastern Europe and of the former Soviet Union that were once under communist regimes currently pursue market-based economic development. Japan regards European countries as important partners that share fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, market economies, and the rule of law, and supports their efforts, such as reconstructing economic infrastructure and addressing environmental issues. In addition, Japan seeks to strengthen comprehensive relations with the European Union (EU) and other Europe-based international organizations through the continuation and promotion of dialogues and collaborations and through the development of human networks.

### Japan's Efforts

#### ■ Support for Ukraine and Its Neighboring Countries

##### (Overview)

In March 2023, Prime Minister Kishida visited Ukraine to directly observe the situation including damage caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. He also held a summit meeting with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and conveyed Japan's unwavering support for and solidarity with the people of Ukraine, as a representative of Japan and the G7, which Japan held the Presidency of. Prime Minister Kishida stated that, in addition to the humanitarian and financial assistance totaling

approximately \$1.6 billion that had been committed since 2022, Japan decided to offer additional financial assistance of approximately \$5.5 billion and new bilateral grant aid amounting to \$470 million to demonstrate solidarity with Ukraine once again on the occasion of the one-year mark of Russia's aggression. He also stated that Japan would steadily implement the assistance to support Ukraine in various fields, including mine action, debris clearance, and livelihood reconstruction including electricity.

At the G7 Hiroshima Summit held under Japan's Presidency in May, the situation in Ukraine was discussed in Session 2 where Prime Minister Kishida stated that public-private efforts would be essential for the medium- to long-term recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. Furthermore, in Session 8 "Ukraine," President Zelenskyy was invited as a guest and further discussion took place on Ukraine (see Part I, Section 2 from page 6 onwards for details on the G7 Hiroshima Summit).



Prime Minister Kishida inspecting the generators provided by Japan as winterization assistance (March 22, 2023) (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

In June, then Foreign Minister Hayashi attended the Ukraine Recovery Conference, co-hosted by the governments of the United Kingdom and Ukraine in London, and expressed Japan's intention to vigorously implement reconstruction assistance. He announced that Japan will offer \$5 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for food, water and sanitation (WASH), health, etc. to those affected by the flood disasters caused by the dam collapse at the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, and will provide equipment including large water tanks and water purifiers through JICA as well as emergency humanitarian assistance through NGOs.

On September 6, Prime Minister Kishida delivered a video message at the "Three Seas Summit" held in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, and expressed Japan's support for the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) that would contribute to a strong, prosperous and united Europe by bolstering the connectivity of Central and Eastern Europe



and the Baltic States.

On September 9, then Foreign Minister Hayashi visited Ukraine. Representatives of Japanese private companies accompanied him, exchanged views with Ukrainian dignitaries, and confirmed cooperation between Japan and Ukraine for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction. Prior to his visit to Ukraine, then Foreign Minister Hayashi visited Poland to meet with Foreign Minister Rau for the third time in 2023 and concurred that Japan will work together with Poland, where many private companies are involved in the reconstruction effort, to facilitate public-private collaboration in the reconstruction of Ukraine with its geographical and historical background.

Japan reopened the JICA Ukraine Office on November 1 in order to provide swift and steady support across a wide range of fields when implementing its full-fledged support in the upcoming recovery and reconstruction phase.

On November 20, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Iwata visited Ukraine as an economic mission, joined by Japanese business representatives who have a high interest in Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction. The two state ministers, along with the accompanying Japanese business representatives, paid courtesy calls on the dignitaries of the Government of Ukraine, including Prime Minister Shmyhal, and exchanged views with representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Federation of Employers of Ukraine. During the visit, Japanese business representatives were paired with Ukrainian counterparts to actively exchange their opinions on cooperation between companies from both countries in the reconstruction of Ukraine.

On December 6, at the G7 Leaders' Video Conference, in which Ukrainian President Zelenskyy also participated, Prime Minister Kishida announced that Japan had decided to provide an additional assistance of approximately \$1 billion, including humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction assistance. The G7 leaders shared the view that they will continue to strongly promote support for Ukraine.

On January 7, 2024, Foreign Minister Kamikawa visited Ukraine and paid a courtesy call on President Zelenskyy and Prime Minister Shmyhal. She also held a meeting with Foreign Minister Kuleba and directly conveyed that Japan's position of standing with Ukraine is unwavering.

On February 19, 2024, the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction took place in Tokyo, attended by government officials and business representatives from both Japan and Ukraine. The two sides confirmed their intention to work closely together and to further vigorously support recovery and reconstruction efforts through public-private collaboration.

Japan will continue to strive to strongly support Ukraine, including in the field of recovery and reconstruction.



Foreign Minister Kamikawa, during her visit to Ukraine, attending the ceremony for the provision of large-scale power-related equipment to Ukraine on January 7, 2024

### (Humanitarian Assistance)

Since the start of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Japan has provided Ukraine and its neighboring countries with support totaling \$7.6 billion in the fields of humanitarian, finance, food, and recovery and reconstruction assistance. In addition, in December 2023, Japan decided to offer an additional assistance of approximately \$1 billion.

In February 2023, Japan extended Emergency Grant Aid of approximately \$550,000 through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to deliver reflective materials and heat packs to the National Police of Ukraine (NPU) as winterization assistance, part of the humanitarian assistance. In addition, as part of the efforts to exemplify the commitment made by Prime Minister Kishida during his visit to Ukraine in March, Japan contributed \$70 million to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the aim of recovering and enhancing power supply to Combined Heat and Power Plants (CHPs), which provide Ukrainian people with electricity, heat, and water. In response to the flood disaster caused by the collapse of the dam at the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant in southern Ukraine on June 6, Japan decided on June 20 to offer Emergency Grant Aid totaling \$5 million in such areas as food, water and sanitation (WASH), and health through the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Furthermore, on June 23, Japan announced that it would provide approximately 160 water purifiers, about 30 drain pumps, 4,000 plastic water containers, and 21 water tanks through JICA, as well as transport 8,000 meters of safety rope and 3,000 pieces of adsorbent materials, which the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan has decided to provide. In September, before Ukraine entered its second severe winter season since the beginning of Russia's aggression, Japan provided two autotransformers to the Government of Ukraine through UNDP. Furthermore, when Foreign Minister

Kamikawa visited Ukraine in January 2024, Japan supported the transportation of seven autotransformers through UNDP and provided five gas turbine generators through JICA and UNDP, which were expected to benefit more than 5 million people. Japan intends to contribute to the recovery and reinforcement of electricity and heating supplies through support to the damaged energy infrastructure facilities, helping the people of Ukraine to overcome the winter.

#### (Recovery and Reconstruction Assistance)

With a view to the future stability of Ukraine, Japan has supported from an early stage the country's recovery and reconstruction in areas such as mine action and debris clearance, which are prerequisites for recovery and reconstruction, the restoration of basic services, including infrastructure for electricity, the recovery of agricultural production and the rehabilitation of industry, and the strengthening of democracy and governance. Based on this policy, in March 2023, Japan decided to provide grant aid totalling ¥75.51 billion for "the Programme for Emergency Recovery" and "the Programme for Emergency Recovery Phase 2."

In February, a ceremony was held in the capital Kyiv to hand over broadcasting equipment to the Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (PBC), as part of support for strengthening democracy in Ukraine. In March, another handover ceremony was held in Kyiv to provide sunflower and corn seeds to the Government of Ukraine through JICA, as part of efforts to recover the production capacity of agriculture, which is Ukraine's key industry. This support was intended to contribute to the economic stabilization of the country, which is one of the main food suppliers in the world, and ultimately to improve the global food supply. Also, in September, a ceremony was held in the presence of then Foreign Minister Hayashi, who was visiting Ukraine, to hand over 24 crane trucks, which are necessary for UXO/mine action, to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU). Moreover, in November, another ceremony was held in the presence of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Iwata, who were both visiting Ukraine, to hand over 50 Japanese-manufactured Advanced Landmine Imaging Systems (ALIS) and 40 vehicles to SESU.

Going forward, Japan will provide joint support between the public and private sectors, taking into account the progress made at the Ukraine Reconstruction Conference in February 2024.

#### (Financial Support)

To mitigate the economic impact of Russian aggression, Japan provides Ukraine with assistance to address its urgent short-term financial needs. In 2023, Japan announced a total of \$5.5 billion in budget support, which was enabled by amending the law to provide credit enhancements for the World Bank loans for Ukraine.

Also, Japan has compiled the G7's consensus to pave the way for the IMF program as the G7 Presidency and also adjusted interest payment schedules for the World Bank loans in order to help Ukraine's liquidity situation for a certain period of time.

#### (Support for Poland and Moldova)

Russia's prolonged aggression against Ukraine is imposing a long-term burden on neighboring countries. Thus, Japan provides assistance to those neighboring countries with a view to reducing their burdens and delivering effective humanitarian, recovery, and reconstruction assistance to Ukraine.

In March 2023, following his visit to Ukraine, Prime Minister Kishida visited Poland, which hosts approximately 1 million displaced persons from Ukraine, and held summit meetings with President Duda and Prime Minister Morawiecki of Poland, respectively. It was confirmed that Japan and Poland, which remain at the forefront of support to Ukraine, serving as a hub for military and humanitarian assistance, would strengthen cooperation in the bilateral and international arenas, including in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine under the Japan-Poland Strategic Partnership. At the meeting with Prime Minister Morawiecki, Prime Minister Kishida stated that the Government of Japan decided to provide ODA directly to Poland in order to reduce the burden on Ukraine's neighboring countries including Poland, which has been increasing due to the prolonged situation, and effectively deliver humanitarian, recovery, and reconstruction assistance to Ukraine. Therefore, Japan, through international organizations and NGOs, provides Poland with humanitarian assistance, such as temporary housing facilities and social integration projects for displaced Ukrainians, and school buses for displaced Ukrainian children as ways to support the lives of Ukrainian evacuees who remain in such conditions for the long-term.

To support Moldova, a country with a population of 2.64 million, which has been accepting 110,000 displaced persons from Ukraine, in April, Japan contributed approximately \$83.36 million to the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) established at the World Bank, utilizing a yen loan (¥60 billion) provided to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), of which approximately \$17 million was used to reduce the burden of interest payments for the Government of Moldova. Furthermore, in July, Japan decided to provide a yen loan of ¥13.5 billion to help Moldova make its society and economy more resilient. In October, in her video message to the 4th Ministerial Conference of the Moldova Support Platform, Minister Kamikawa stated that, in line with the agenda of "Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)," Japan has consistently supported vulnerable people in Moldova, especially women and girls, affected by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, through its financial

contribution to UN Women, and that Japan will continue to support Moldova.

### ■ Support for the Western Balkans

The reform of the Western Balkan countries<sup>17</sup> once stagnated due to the conflicts in the 1990s. However, as a result of reconstruction assistance from various donor countries and international organizations along with their own reform efforts, their focus shifted from reconstruction to sustainable economic development for which they are currently in need of assistance. Japan, in support of the idea of a unified Europe, provides development cooperation in collaboration with EU and others. For example, under the “Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative”<sup>18</sup> (2018), Japan supports necessary socio-economic reforms of the Western Balkan countries toward EU accession.

In Serbia, Japan helps promote high-quality economic growth with a focus on private sector development, environmental conservation, and better economic and social services. Implemented since November 2020, the “Project for Modernization of Public Urban Transport in the City of Belgrade” aims to enhance the capacity of the Secretariat for Public Transport (SfPT) of Belgrade through improving operational efficiency in public transport services (buses, trams, and trolleybuses), which are the major mode of transport for citizens, and through developing better fare collection systems. It is envisaged that the implementation of the project will create an eco-friendly public transport system that the city intends to put in place. Furthermore, in Sid Municipality in the western part of the country, Japan supports the “Project for Capacity Development of Solid Waste Management,” which is designed to establish models of efficient and sustainable general waste management for small and medium local governments, and to promote the development of area-wide waste management systems through encouraging garbage separation at the source and the “3Rs” (Reduce waste, Reuse, and Recycle



Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina playing “Traffic Sugoroku” board game, a traffic and transport educational tool aimed at encouraging the use of public transportation (Photo: ALMEC Corporation)

resources), including the reduction of waste generation.

In North Macedonia, Japan has implemented the “Project on Capacity Building for Ecosystem Based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) through Sustainable Forest Management in Macedonia” since 2017. Applying the knowledge gained from this project, Japan is also implementing the “Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Ecosystem-Based Disaster and Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR),” which aims to reduce the risks of forest fires and other natural disasters in Kosovo and Montenegro.

In addition, in light of the spread of COVID-19, Japan has provided health and medical equipment totaling ¥1.2 billion since 2020 to eight countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine, in support of strengthening their vulnerable health and medical systems (see “Featured Project” on page 109 regarding support in the health and medical care fields in North Macedonia).

<sup>17</sup> The six countries including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

<sup>18</sup> An initiative aimed at encouraging socio-economic reforms of the Western Balkan countries toward EU accession and promoting reconciliation and cooperation amongst the ethnic groups.



## Featured Project



## Fine-Tuned Support that Meets Local Needs

## Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects in the Health and Medical Care Sector (Total of 20 Projects)

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (2021 – 2023)

## North Macedonia



North Macedonia, a multi-ethnic country in the Western Balkan region, is a small country with an area about two-thirds the size of Kyushu in Japan. While its development is in progress around the capital, Skopje, in rural areas, there is a lack of budget for the development of social infrastructure, namely in the education, health, and environment sectors, making regional disparities an issue to be addressed. In order to support sustainable and inclusive development, Japan implemented 177 projects through Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects<sup>\*1</sup> across North Macedonia over a 27-year period from 1996 to 2023. The total amount counts to over €8.9 million. Approximately 80% of these projects were implemented in the health and medical care sector and the education sector, helping to improve the lives of local communities through the provision of medical equipment to hospitals or renovation of schools.

Since 2020, strengthening the health and medical care systems has become an urgent issue due to the impact of COVID-19, which caused a deterioration in the economic situation and imposed an increased burden on the medical system, widening regional disparities in medical services.

In response to the situation, Japan reinforces its assistance in the health and medical care sector. From FY2020 to the present, 20 Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects have been adopted to implement COVID-19 countermeasures to strengthen the country's health and medical care systems.

Through these implemented projects, Japan provided a medical



Examining a patient using an ultrasound system provided by Japan through a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project

waste processing machine to a hospital that treats infectious diseases, as well as a set of medical equipment to a health center to improve emergency medical services, among other examples. Furthermore, in consideration of regional disparities in medical services, Japan actively supports local medical institutions. The medical devices with Japanese cutting-edge and high-quality technology provided through the projects are widely appreciated.

Japan closely works with local implementing organizations to provide fine-tuned support from project formulation and implementation to follow-up.

<sup>\*1</sup> See 87 on page 84.

# Japan's Efforts in Ukraine and Its Neighboring Countries

## Assistance for the Rapid Recovery and Reconstruction

### Ukraine

#### Grant Aid "Programme for Emergency Recovery" and "Programme for Emergency Recovery Phase 2"

In March, Mr. Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Ukraine and Mr. Kubrakov, Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration of Ukraine signed and exchanged notes for the "Programme for Emergency Recovery" (grant amount: ¥22.44 billion) and the "Programme for Emergency Recovery Phase 2" (grant amount: ¥53.072 billion) to provide equipment necessary for mine action, debris clearance, livelihood reconstruction including the provision of basic infrastructure, recovery of agriculture, and strengthening democracy and governance.



## Support for Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Disposal

### Ukraine

#### Grant Aid "Provision of Trucks and Landmine Detectors to State Emergency Service of Ukraine"

As part of the support for the humanitarian mine action and UXO clearance conducted by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU), Japan provided 24 crane trucks for transporting UXOs and other explosives in the presence of then Foreign Minister Hayashi. In addition, 50 sets of Advanced Landmine Imagine System (ALIS) were provided after Ukrainian experts underwent training on mine action in Cambodia with the cooperation of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre.



## Contributing to Restoring Farmers' Productivity and Improving Income

### Ukraine

#### Technical Cooperation "Support for Agriculture: Distribution of Seeds"

Japan worked with FAO to procure sunflower and corn seeds from Ukrainian farmers as livelihood assistance. In March and April, Japan distributed them through FAO to approximately 400 smallholder farmers in Kharkiv Oblast, where agricultural production and farm income have significantly declined due to the war, while prioritizing women and young farmers.



(Photo: Svitlana Haponyk, Kharkiv regional center of advice public association)

## Winterization Assistance

### Ukraine

#### Winterization Assistance in Ukraine

In February, Japan provided reflective materials and heat packs to the National Police of Ukraine (NPU) through UNOPS. In September, Japan provided two autotransformers through the UNDP project "Promotion of Human Security in Ukraine through Responding to the Multidimensional Crisis Caused by the War."



(Photo: UNDP Ukraine/Ksenia Nevenchenko)

## Assistance for Democratization through the Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (PBC)

### Ukraine

#### Technical Cooperation "Project for Capacity Development of Public Service Broadcaster of Ukraine"

In February, Japan provided PBC with several mobile relay devices for its main office in Kyiv and branches in Ukraine with attendance of Mr. Matsuda, Ambassador of Japan to Ukraine. The equipment contributed to the establishment of an accurate, impartial, and fair reporting system for PBC during wartime.



(Photo: Ministry of Finance)

## Additional Budget Support

### Ukraine

#### As the G7 Presidency, Japan Led International Discussions on Ukraine's Financial Needs and Provided Financial Support

Japan announced a total of \$5.5 billion budget support, which was enabled by amending the law to provide credit enhancements for the World Bank loans for Ukraine. Japan put the G7 consensus together to pave the way for the IMF program and also adjusted interest payment schedules for the World Bank loans in order to help Ukraine's liquidity situation for a certain period of time.



Japan continues to provide various assistance to Ukraine and its neighboring countries in 2023, in response to Russia's prolonged aggression against Ukraine. This section introduces some of Japan's efforts.

## Japanese NGO's Visible Cooperation

### Provision of Generators and Other Supplies

#### Ukraine

Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO) "Project of Cash Assistance and Provision of Generators for Internally Displaced Persons in Odesa, Ukraine"

Cash assistance and the provision of generators for internally displaced persons in Izmail City, southern Odesa Oblast.



(Photo: NICCO)



(Photo: AMDA)

### Support for Internally Displaced Persons

#### Ukraine

AMDA "Emergency Relief for Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine"

Together with partner organizations in Hungary and Ukraine, AMDA implemented the project to provide medical and material support to internally displaced persons in Uzhhorod in Zakarpattia Oblast and the Kharkiv Oblast in Ukraine.

### Support for Evacuation Life in Slovakia

#### Slovakia

ADRA Japan "Support for Livelihoods and Self-reliance for Ukraine War Victims in Slovakia"

ADRA Japan provided self-reliance support to displaced persons from Ukraine staying in Slovakia, including cash assistance, provision of daily necessities, psychological counseling, and employment support.



(Photo: ADRA Japan)

### Provision of Shelter and Non-Food Items, as well as Educational and Psychosocial Support for Children

#### Romania

Public nomination

Good Neighbors Japan (GNJP) "Integrated Humanitarian Support for Ukrainian Refugees through Shelter/Non-Food Items, Education, Psychosocial Support, and Cash-based Interventions in Galati, Romania"

GNJP supported displaced persons from Ukraine staying in Ukraine's neighboring city of Galati in eastern Romania to improve their protection, living and educational environment, by providing comprehensive assistance, including clothing, shelter, opportunities for social interaction, educational and psychosocial support for children, as well as cash assistance to vulnerable households of the displaced.



(Photo: GNJP)

### Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in Response to the Collapse of the Kakhovka Dam

#### Ukraine

Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the Flood Disaster in Southern Ukraine

In June, Japan extended Emergency Grant Aid through international organizations (WFP, UNICEF, IOM, and UNHCR) in response to the flood disaster caused by the collapse of the dam at the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant in southern Ukraine. As an additional assistance, Japan provided 100 water purifiers, 21 large water tanks, 4,000 plastic water containers, approximately 60 water purification units, and about 30 drain pumps through JICA, in order to urgently secure drinking water for the residents of the affected area in the Kherson Oblast.



(Photo: UNICEF/UNI404147/Filippov)

Ukraine

Moldova

Romania



The Central Asian and Caucasus region is located in a geopolitically important place linking East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Russia. Its development and stability hold great significance for those of Eurasia as a whole. Enjoying abundant natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, uranium, and rare earths, being positioned on an important route for the transportation of energy, and with pipelines having been installed from Kazakhstan and other Caspian Sea areas to Europe, Russia, and China, the region is of strategic importance from the perspective of energy security as well. In particular, since Russia's aggression against Ukraine in February 2022, it has been attracting attention as a point of connectivity between Europe and East Asia without passing through Russia.

Central Asian and Caucasus countries have worked toward transitioning to a market economy and economic development since their independence in 1991. However, they still face challenges such as the modernization of aging economic infrastructure established during the former Soviet Union era, human resources development in support of the transition to a market economy, and the development of social systems, including health and medical care. Meanwhile, because the region is vulnerable not only to the geopolitical influence of major countries in its vicinity but also to the security situations in neighboring countries, there are concerns about social unrest associated with the reintegration of returnees from conflict areas such as Afghanistan. Furthermore, to reinforce connectivity, it is essential to enhance logistics through improving the customs system and to implement effective anti-drug measures through strengthening border controls.

Japan provides cooperation toward the free, open, and sustainable development of the Central Asian and Caucasus region with a focus on priorities, such as developing economic and social infrastructure, supporting democracy and market economy development, strengthening border control, and implementing anti-drug measures.

### Japan's Efforts

Japan launched the "Central Asia plus Japan" dialogue in 2004 and since then, considering Central Asia as a partner in maintaining and strengthening the free and open international order, it has been promoting regional cooperation in support of the contribution to peace and stability in the region. The 12th Tokyo Dialogue of "Central Asia plus Japan" was held in Tokyo in March 2023, in the form of an open symposium under the theme of "Connectivity with Central Asia and the Caucasus." The meeting was attended by practitioners from Central

Asia as well as Azerbaijan and Georgia, which are an important region linking Central Asia to the sea, along with representatives of the World Customs Organization (WCO), which is involved in international cooperation in the customs sector, relevant Japanese ministries and agencies, and Japanese companies. Participants reported on the current status and challenges of regional cooperation in their respective countries, and engaged in lively discussions with Japanese counterparts who presented their corporate perspectives and case studies from Japan.



In May, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoshikawa visited No. 13 Kindergarten of Etchmiadzin Municipality in Armenia, whose building was renovated with assistance from Japan

As for Japan's relationship with the Caucasus countries, in May 2023, then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoshikawa visited Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, and concurred with each country to enhance regional connectivity and strengthen support for human resources development.

From 1993 to 2022, as part of its support for human resources development mainly in the fields of health, agriculture, and education, Japan has accepted



A garbage collection truck provided to Georgia through a Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project in support of improving sanitary conditions and environmental conservation for residents in the Mtskheta Municipality, Georgia

approximately 12,100 trainees from Central Asian and Caucasus countries while dispatching approximately 3,300 experts to those countries. Moreover, Japan supports the development of human resources necessary for state-building efforts, including through the implementation of the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS), which is a study-in-Japan program for young government officials and others, the Development Studies Program, and the development of human resources for business at the Japan Center for Human Resources Development.

In the area of basic social services, Japan provides assistance in strengthening the health and medical care systems in countries that have been significantly affected by the spread of COVID-19.

In recent years, a flashpoint for ethnic tensions has become apparent in the Central Asia and Caucasus region. In September 2023, Azerbaijan started military activities in Nagorno-Karabakh, and as a result of this,

more than 100,000 persons have been displaced to Armenia. Given this situation, Japan delivered Emergency Grant Aid of \$2 million to the displaced persons of Nagorno-Karabakh in Armenia and Azerbaijan through international organizations.

Additionally, in light of the situation in neighboring Afghanistan, Japan assists in strengthening the system of public order in the areas near the Tajik border with Afghanistan through establishing border security offices, delivering equipment for the digitalization of border control, and organizing personnel training. Furthermore, in five Central Asian countries sharing borders with Afghanistan, Japan not only provides skills training and employment support to youths returning from conflict areas or migrant work so that they can integrate into society but also offers assistance in stabilizing society and improving security, such as the promotion of social engagement through community activities.

### Featured Project



## Road Disaster Risk Reduction to Protect Citizens from Avalanches

Project for Avalanche Protection on Bishkek-Osh Road

Grant Aid (March 2016 – November 2023)

Kyrgyz Republic



In the Kyrgyz Republic, a landlocked country, the domestic road network not only serves as a basic infrastructure for people's daily lives, but also plays a role of an economic infrastructure that supports trade with neighboring countries. In particular, the road linking the capital Bishkek and Osh City, the country's second-largest city, is the only main arterial road connecting the north and south of the country. The road, connecting Russia and Afghanistan through Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz, forms a part of the Asian Highway Network international corridor. The road, which is used by hundreds of thousands of vehicles throughout the year, runs through steep mountainous terrain and was in a dangerous condition due to snowstorms and natural disasters such as avalanches that make passage difficult. Against this backdrop, Japan supported the construction of the first Snow Shed\*<sup>1</sup> in the country through grant aid in the area where avalanches occur most frequently. In constructing the Snow Shed, Japan utilized the technology developed in heavy snowfall regions of Japan and worked to strengthen avalanche countermeasures on mountainous roads in the Kyrgyz Republic.

It is expected that the Snow Shed will ensure traffic safety in this section of the road during winter and help maintain smooth traffic throughout the year. With the improvements, both domestic and international access to neighboring countries is expected to be enhanced, which leads to the facilitation of logistics.



The Snow Shed (disaster prevention tunnel) constructed through this cooperation (Photo: JICA)

Construction workers from Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic cooperated and completed the construction work despite the severe weather conditions. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic named this tunnel the "Kyrgyz Republic-Japan Friendship Tunnel" as a token of its gratitude for Japan's support.

Japan will continue to support the development of economic and social infrastructure that will help the Kyrgyz Republic grow and diversify its industries and improve its export capabilities.

\*<sup>1</sup> A tunnel-like facility that covers the road to ensure safe passage from avalanches

Japan depends on the Middle East and North Africa region for approximately 90% of its crude oil imports, and the region, as a global logistics hub, is critically important from the perspective of Japan's economy and energy security. In addition, with a high population growth rate and an increasing youth population, it is expected to have a high potential for future growth.

At the same time, the Middle East and North Africa region faces various destabilizing factors and issues. Most recently, the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has become extremely dire due to the military developments following the terror attacks on Israel by Hamas and others on October 7. Furthermore, the escalation of tensions over Iran and the wave of refugees and internally displaced persons from ongoing armed conflict in Syria are seriously affecting the stability of the neighboring countries and the entire region. After the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan in August 2021, humanitarian needs have increased in the country as well as in neighboring countries. The risk of proliferation of violent extremism such as the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)" still remains in various places. Moreover, in recent years, the region has also been hit by a series of natural disasters, raising concerns about their impact on the humanitarian and security situation.

As a responsible member of the international community, Japan has made significant contributions to peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa region through ODA and other means. Building on the good relationships it has developed with Middle Eastern countries, Japan will continue to make active diplomatic efforts to ease tensions and stabilize the situation in the region.

### Japan's Efforts

Peace and stability in this region are extremely important for the stability and prosperity of the international community as a whole, including Japan. Thus, there is a need to provide support in various areas such as economic assistance and human resources development to achieve sustainable peace and stability in the region.

#### ■ Support for Syria, Iraq, and the Neighboring Countries

With regard to the Syria issue, which is a pressing concern for the international community, Japan announced at the seventh Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" (Brussels VII Conference) held in June

2023 that it had decided to contribute approximately \$220 million, including approximately \$40 million in humanitarian assistance in response to the earthquake that occurred in the southeastern part of Türkiye in February. Also, Japan reiterated its determination to continue to provide assistance in line with the needs of the Syrian people and neighboring countries. This assistance includes humanitarian aid and support for social stabilization for Syria and its neighboring countries (see "Featured Project" on page 115 regarding support for Syrian refugees).

As for Iraq, Japan provides assistance in the forms of yen loans and other means in the oil and gas sector, which are the foundation of Iraq's economy, and electricity, water, and sewage, which constitute basic lifeline services. Also, Japan assists in strengthening governance in Iraq with the aim of helping Iraq develop independently as a stable, democratic state.

Since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011, the total amount of Japan's assistance to Syria, Iraq, and the neighboring countries has reached approximately \$3.5 billion. In the region where the humanitarian situation is always fluid, Japan provides timely and effective assistance (see also Part III, Section 2 (1) on page 45).

Under the Japan-Jordan Partnership Program (JJPP), Japan conducts training for human resources development for nationals of Iraq and other neighboring countries in Jordan, which plays an important role in accepting Iraqi refugees and supporting Iraq's reconstruction. In addition, Jordan has accepted many Syrian refugees since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, and, as support for the refugees and the communities hosting them, Japan supports the rehabilitation of waterworks facilities for a stable water supply and efficient and effective use of water resources to alleviate water shortages due to population growth. In September 2023, a signing ceremony was held for a loan of an approximately \$100 million (¥15 billion) for electricity sector reform and grant aid of ¥897 million for stable electricity supply.

Moreover, Japan supports human resources development and self-reliance of refugees. For example, as part of the effort to train Syrian nationals for reconstruction in the future, from FY2017 to December 2023, Japan accepted a total of 136 Syrian students under the "Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees (JISR)"<sup>19</sup> and the Japanese Government Scholarship program.

<sup>19</sup> This is one of the support measures for the Middle East announced by Japan in May 2016, which aims to provide educational opportunities to Syrian youths who have been deprived of the opportunity to attend school due to the crisis. In cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Japan implements the measure for Syrian youths who have fled to Jordan and Lebanon as refugees.



## Featured Project

Public nomination

11

## Protecting the Dignity of Syrian Refugees through Self-Reliance Support

—UNHCR Activities—

Protecting Refugees in Jordan

Jordan



The ongoing Syrian crisis, which started in 2011, has displaced 6.8 million people inside Syria and forced 5.2 million to flee to neighboring countries. Jordan,<sup>\*1</sup> a neighboring country where more than 650,000 Syrians have taken refuge, is known for its open-door policy for refugees. In Jordan, refugees are guaranteed basic public services. For example, the country responded flexibly to the spread of COVID-19 by including refugees in its national vaccination program. However, refugees still face a number of difficulties due to a chronic shortage of humanitarian funding and economic exhaustion. The needs of the refugees are also diversifying as their stay in Jordan is prolonged.

Responding to the situation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with financial contribution from Japan, is helping protect the lives and dignity of Syrian refugees residing in Jordan. UNHCR's efforts include training refugee volunteers to carry out protection activities in their communities and working with local women's organizations to provide income opportunities so refugee women can improve their



Syrian refugee women learning to make soap as part of a livelihood improvement program at a community center in the capital Amman (Photo: UNHCR)

livelihoods and become more self-reliant.

UNHCR also provides monthly grants to vulnerable refugee families. Ms. SAWADA Mei, a UNHCR Jordan official, says, "Providing grants so families can meet their daily needs is an important form of support that helps refugees become self-reliant and economically active. It can revitalize the local economy as well." In 2023, UNHCR provided grants to approximately 250,000 people and received grateful responses from recipients, including, "We were able to buy food, pay rent, and cover children's medical and education expenses with the assistance."

To ensure that the needs of each individual who is forced to flee their homes are met in an appropriate and timely manner, UNHCR, in collaboration with partner organizations, continues to provide humanitarian assistance under the motto "stay and deliver."

<sup>\*1</sup> Jordan hosts the world's second highest number of refugees per capita.



Za'atari Refugee Camp, home to more than 80,000 refugees, was set up by UNHCR in cooperation with the Government of Jordan (Photo: UNHCR)

## Assistance to Yemen

Yemen faces the "world's worst humanitarian crisis" with approximately 80% of its population in need of some form of humanitarian aid due to the prolonged conflict. In this context, since 2015, as a major donor country, Japan, through international organizations, has provided a total of approximately over \$400 million in humanitarian aid to the country. In 2023, in addition to the humanitarian aid through international organizations, Japan continued to provide education and training in Japan by accepting Yemeni students through the Japanese Government Scholarship program and conducting training for Yemeni experts through JICA, in order to foster human resources to back up Yemen's self-reliant stabilization. Furthermore, for the purpose of creating an environment where people can engage in economic activities, Japan supports road rehabilitation in the city of Aden and provides equipment for mooring an alternative facility where oil can be transshipped from the Safer, a floating storage and offloading facility at risk of spilling oil due to leakages caused by aging.

## Assistance to Afghanistan

Even after the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021, international organizations and NGOs have continued to operate in Afghanistan, and the international community has provided considerable support. However, the country's humanitarian situation remains a serious concern, due in part to the impact of the Taliban's oppressive policies, including greater restrictions on the rights of women and girls. Against this background, Japan, in cooperation with the international community, has continued to urge the Taliban to improve the situation. In parallel, Japan has announced a proactive humanitarian aid policy in international fora, including the G7 and the UN Security Council, and has emphasized the importance of bringing stability to Afghanistan.

Specifically, since August 2021, Japan, through international organizations and NGOs, has provided assistance in areas such as shelter, health, water and sanitation, food, agriculture, and education. This includes enhancing agricultural production and promoting community-led irrigation through the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as improving women's livelihoods through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, immediately after the earthquake that occurred in western Afghanistan in October 2023, Japan, through JICA, provided emergency relief goods. Furthermore, as the damage continued and expanded, Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid in sectors such as food and health.

Since 2001, Japan has offered a wide range of development assistance to Afghanistan in support of the country's sustainable and self-reliant development, including the organization of two ministerial-level meetings (2002 and 2012) and the provision of support to various sectors such as humanitarian relief, health, education, agriculture and rural development, and women's empowerment. With regard to future assistance to Afghanistan, Japan will work closely with the international community and respond appropriately after carefully assessing the needs of the Afghan people while keeping in mind the establishment of a self-reliant economy and the promotion of women's empowerment.

#### ■ Middle East Peace (Assistance to Palestine)

Japan has prioritized assistance to Palestine as one of the key policy pillars of its contribution to the Middle East peace, and has provided more than \$2.3 billion in assistance since the 1993 Oslo Accords. Specifically, Japan has provided various types of humanitarian assistance through international organizations and NGOs to improve the harsh living conditions of the socially vulnerable in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and those affected by conflicts in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. In March 2023, Japan provided approximately \$24.77 million in grant aid through international organizations, and in August, it provided Emergency Grant Aid of \$1 million through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to support the Jenin refugee camp in Palestine, which was severely damaged by Israeli military operations. Moreover, in September, Japan provided grant aid in the amount of ¥200 million through the World Food Programme (WFP) for improving food security and contributing to the solution of development challenges in Palestine.

Japan is also engaged in a wide range of efforts, so as to stabilize and improve the daily lives of Palestinians, strengthen the fiscal position, and enhance the quality of administration aimed at preparing for a future Palestinian state-building and for a self-reliant Palestinian economy. In February, JICA announced the signing of a \$30 million subordinated loan agreement with the Bank of Palestine, a major private financial institution in Palestine. This loan is the first Private-Sector Investment Finance project in Palestine, and is expected to contribute to improving access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises by expanding the Bank of Palestine's loan portfolio. Additionally, in September, the Exchange of Notes (E/N) on Grant Aid of ¥2.793 billion



A tent provided through JICA (Photo: JICA)

for the renovation of water distribution facilities in Jenin municipality in the West Bank of Palestine to improve water supply service was signed.

Following the terror attacks on Israel by Hamas and others on October 7, the Israel Defense Forces began a military operation in the Gaza Strip, and the humanitarian situation considerably deteriorated. In October, Japan extended Emergency Grant Aid of \$10 million in sectors such as food, water, and medical care through UNRWA and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). On November 3, during her visit to Palestine, Foreign Minister Kamikawa announced Japan's plan to provide additional assistance of approximately \$65 million to Palestine and supplies to the Gaza Strip. Putting this into practice, Japan, through JICA, worked with the Egyptian and Palestine Red Crescent Societies, and UNRWA to deliver relief supplies such as tents and blankets to the Gaza Strip, and also through the Japan Platform (JPF) provided ¥600 million (approximately \$4.4 million) in humanitarian assistance such as food, daily necessities, health and medical care, water, and sanitation. In addition, approximately ¥8.3 billion (approximately \$60 million) was allocated as part of the FY2023 supplementary budget for humanitarian assistance in the areas of food and nutrition, maternal and child health, medical services, and other areas



Foreign Minister Kamikawa in conversation with three Palestinian junior high school students from the Gaza Strip during her visit to the Middle East in November

through international organizations (including UNRWA, WFP, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)).<sup>20</sup>

#### ■ Assistance to the North Africa Region

In Egypt, under the initiative of President El-Sisi, the Japanese-style education system from early childhood through to higher education has been introduced. In addition, Japan provides Egypt with a combination of grant aid, yen loans, and technical assistance across a wide range of sector interventions, including transportation infrastructure projects such as the Greater Cairo Metro Line No. 4 and Borg El Arab International Airport, support in fields of agriculture and irrigation, the construction of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), and the conservation and restoration of artifacts at the GEM. In April 2023, Prime Minister Kishida visited Egypt and held a summit meeting with President El-Sisi, and the Exchange of Notes (E/N) for a yen loan of up to ¥100 billion for the “Greater Cairo Metro Line No. 4 Phase 1 Project (III)” was signed. In addition, the two leaders confirmed the steady progress of Japan’s assistance through ODA, including the cooperation regarding strengthening food security, the promotion of Japanese-style education in the education sector, the acceptance of 150 foreign students, mainly doctoral students, at the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST), and cooperation regarding the GEM.

Libya is a resource-rich country with the largest oil reserves in Africa. However, it has not been able to break away from the prolonged pattern of conflict and political turmoil, which has become an element of instability in the region, including the refugee issue. In September,

heavy rains and dam bursts caused floods in the eastern part of the country, resulting in considerable casualties, suffering, and property damage. In response, Japan provided emergency relief goods such as tents, blankets, and water purifiers, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, including Emergency Grant Aid totaling \$3 million (¥411 million) through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and food aid of approximately \$1.6 million.



KAIZEN training on hospital management conducted by Japanese experts for medical professionals working at public hospitals in Tunisia (Photo: JICA)

Morocco was battered by the earthquake disaster that occurred in the central region of the country in September. Japan, through the IFRC, provided an Emergency Grant Aid of \$2 million, including shelter and food, and also decided to deliver \$1 million in disaster assistance in partnership with Japanese NGOs via the JPF.

<sup>20</sup> Following the discovery on January 26, 2024, of allegations that UNRWA staff members had been involved in the terrorist attack, on January 28, Japan suspended its funding to UNRWA (approximately \$35 million) as part of its support for Palestine.



Africa is a young and hopeful continent. By 2050, it is expected to be home to a quarter of the world's population. With abundant resources and huge potential as an economic market, strong growth is expected in the region. However, it also faces various challenges, including poverty, fragile health systems, and emerging terrorism and violent extremism.

In order to tackle these challenges, African countries pursue sustainable development in line with “Agenda 2063,”<sup>21</sup> Africa's own development initiative. In a series of events that continue to threaten the foundation of the international community, such as Russia's aggression against Ukraine, it becomes more important than ever for the international community to respond as a whole. Accordingly, Africa's position in the international community has also changed significantly, and its importance and presence as a major player in the international community are increasingly growing. For this reason, it is essential to further deepen cooperation with African countries.

### Japan's Efforts

Japan has contributed to Africa's sustainable development over many years, including through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).<sup>\*</sup> At TICAD 8, held in August 2022 in Tunisia, it made commitments to prioritizing “investment in people” and “quality of growth,” and engaging in green investment, promotion of investment, development finance, public health, human resources development, regional stabilization, and food security as well as human resources development in a wide range of fields, including industry, health, medicine, education, agriculture, justice, and administration. Since then, Japan has been making steady progress.

Japan places importance on listening directly to African “voices.” From April 29 to May 3, 2023, immediately before the G7 Hiroshima Summit, Prime Minister Kishida visited Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, and Mozambique, key countries from each region across the African continent, and heard about the various challenges each country faces. At the Summit, Japan invited Comoros, the chair of the African Union (AU), and built on the outcomes of Prime Minister Kishida's visit to African countries to hold genuine discussions. Furthermore, from July 31 to August 3, then Foreign Minister Hayashi paid a visit to South Africa, Uganda, and Ethiopia, and exchanged views on Japan's long-standing support and on the way forward to strengthening cooperation with each country.

On August 26, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the launch of TICAD, Japan organized the 30th Anniversary Event - TICAD's 30-Year History and Prospects - in Tokyo, where participants had a lively exchange of views on past achievements and future prospects.



Panel Discussion 3 “Future of TICAD” at “TICAD's 30-Year History and Prospects” held in August 2023 to commemorate the 30th anniversary

It has been decided that the TICAD Ministerial Meeting will be held in Tokyo in 2024, and TICAD 9 will be held in Yokohama in 2025. As “a partner growing together with Africa,” Japan strives to promote African development with people-focused approaches that are quintessentially Japanese, and to realize a resilient Africa that Africa itself aims to achieve.

### ■ Economy

At TICAD 8, Japan made a commitment to strengthening a free and open international economic system to achieve a better recovery from the impact of COVID-19, the situation in Ukraine, etc. on the food, energy, and other sectors, and safeguard people's lives. It also announced its intention to support green growth in the respective countries toward achieving a resilient and sustainable Africa, and enable private and start-up companies to expand their business into Africa with a focus on vibrant and dynamic young people. Actions are taken to realize this.

Under the theme of “investment in people” in support of quality growth, Japan has long developed human resources in industries that can contribute to the promotion of the private sector. The ABE Initiative has so far provided training opportunities to more than 6,700 young Africans (see Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 139

<sup>21</sup> Adopted at the Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) in 2015, the same year the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted.

and Part V, Section 2 (2) A on page 143 for the ABE Initiative). In addition to human resources in industries, Japan also helps to train ICT professionals through technical cooperation, and supports start-up companies and entrepreneurs through “Project NINJA”<sup>22</sup> (see “Stories from the Field” on page 36 for the active role played by an ABE Initiative graduate in Rwanda, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 27 for activities in the beekeeping industry in Tanzania).

To enhance connectivity, Japan also promotes investment in “quality infrastructure,” with a focus on the three geographic areas of priority.<sup>23</sup> Moreover, as a way to improve logistics through digital transformation (DX), it undertakes infrastructure development, One Stop Border Posts (OSBP), and other initiatives, and works with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to support capacity building in the areas of border control and tariff collection.

In July 2022, Japan pledged approximately \$130 million in food assistance to African countries in response to the growing food crisis caused by the soaring prices of food, fertilizer, and energy due to Russia’s prolonged aggression against Ukraine. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the region’s capacity in medium- to long-term food production, it supports efforts to double rice production, provides co-financing of approximately \$300 million to the African Emergency Food Production Facility of the African Development Bank (AfDB), and helps human resources development with the target of training 200,000 people in the agricultural sector over the next three years. Japan remains committed to contributing to the enhancement of Africa’s food security, through both short-term assistance such as food aid, and medium- to long-term assistance, including capacity development for agricultural production.

### ■ Society

At TICAD 8, Japan expressed its commitment to correct growing disparities and to realize a quality living environment, taking into account human security, the SDGs, and “Africa’s Agenda 2063.”

The fight against infectious diseases remains a major challenge for Africa. Reflecting its own values, Japan takes comprehensive and tailor-made approaches to provide support in this field, including financial contributions to the COVAX Facility,<sup>24</sup> “Last One Mile Support,” such as the development of a cold chain system,<sup>25</sup> efforts to address vaccine hesitancy, and assistance for the manufacturing, supply, and procurement of vaccines



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) discussing the installation of trash cans with local NGO staff to improve the environment at the Cotonou fishing port in Benin, which was built with Japan’s grant aid (Photo: JICA)

in the region. In addition, Japan, through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), supports seven African countries<sup>26</sup> in developing a digital immunization information system in order to respond to public health threats, including infectious diseases. It also works with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other organizations to train medical personnel as a way to strengthen field-level support to hubs for addressing infectious diseases.

Japan continues its efforts to strengthen health systems in Africa not only through bilateral assistance but also through assistance to international organizations, including its pledge of up to \$1.08 billion to the Global Fund announced at TICAD 8. In addition, under the principle of “leaving no one’s health behind,” Japan contributes to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) in Africa with a focus on prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) for future public health emergencies.

Human resources development is a key driver of economic growth. Thus, Japan strives to improve access to quality education including youth and women. At TICAD 8, Japan made a commitment to providing quality education, including STEM education<sup>27</sup> to 9 million people, and to improve access to education for 4 million girls. Since then, Japan has helped to promote school enrollment, to enhance inclusiveness, and to provide school meals through technical cooperation and other initiatives. For example, since its launch in 2004, the “School for All” project,<sup>28</sup> which is designed to

<sup>22</sup> See <sup>23</sup> on page 144.

<sup>23</sup> Three areas spanning the East Africa Northern Corridor, the Nacala Corridor, and the West Africa Growth Ring.

<sup>24</sup> See the glossary on page 73.

<sup>25</sup> See <sup>66</sup> on page 71.

<sup>26</sup> Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Congo, Malawi, South Sudan, Tunisia, and Uganda.

<sup>27</sup> See <sup>76</sup> on page 79.

<sup>28</sup> See <sup>77</sup> on page 79.

improve the learning environment for children through collaboration among schools, parents and guardians, and communities, has been rolled out to approximately 70,000 primary and junior high schools in nine countries across Africa (see “Featured Project” on page 86 regarding assistance for children with disabilities in Kenya).

In Africa, there is also an urgent need to address the various challenges associated with rapid urbanization. Under the “African Clean Cities Platform” (ACCP),<sup>29</sup> Japan promotes improvements in public health through waste management. In addition, it undertakes environment-related initiatives, including measures related to climate change, such as regular forest monitoring through the JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropic (JJ-FAST) (see “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 66 for support on waste management in Ethiopia, and “Featured Project” on page 122 for efforts to increase community resilience through green works in Uganda).



Participants from 10 African countries of the third country training on waste management and urban sanitation in Tunisia, visiting a facility where salvaged timber is composted (Photo: JICA)



A ceremony to present maternal and child health handbooks from CFAO Motors Angola, S.A., a local subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho Corporation, under the “Project for improving maternal and child health services through the Maternal and Child Health Handbook” in Angola (Photo: JICA)

## ■ Peace and Stability

As expressed at TICAD 8, Japan has been supporting Africa’s own efforts to achieve peace and security, prerequisites for economic growth, investment, and better lives under the “New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA),”<sup>★</sup> which aims to address the root causes hampering human security, and peace and stability.

It is only under the rule of law that peaceful and stable societies and sustainable growth can be realized. As specific support for Africa’s own efforts in the area of the rule of law, Japan provides training for police officers and assistance for border control. Also, it assists in developing human resources for building institutions and strengthening governance in the judicial and administrative sectors, in conducting fair and transparent elections, and in ensuring public safety. Furthermore, as part of the effort to develop mutual understanding and cooperative relations between the government and citizens as the foundation of peace and stability, Japan promotes collaboration between local government and communities.

In addition, Japan supports Africa’s own efforts in mediation and conflict prevention through strengthening the capacity of PKO personnel at Peacekeeping Training Centers in Africa and supporting the African Union (AU) and other regional organizations. Since 2008, Japan has contributed over \$110 million in support of projects targeted at benefiting Peacekeeping Training Centers in 15 African countries. Also, it has dispatched more than 60 Japanese lecturers to develop the training capacity of the facilities and conduct training at the facilities. Furthermore, it decided to provide approximately \$8.5 million to expand the “UN Triangular Partnership Programme (TPP),” which is a support framework for peacekeepers, to deliver training to personnel who are to be deployed to African Union-led Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs). Then, in September 2023, Prime Minister Kishida made a statement in his address at the UN General Assembly that Japan will further extend its support for peacekeepers.

In the Sahel region, by applying NAPSA, Japan contributes to regional peace and stability. In particular, focusing on the administrative vulnerabilities at the national level, it provides equipment that improves the capacity to maintain public security, training for people engaging in institution building, vocational training and education opportunities for the youth, as well as support for the development of human resources for peacekeeping operations. For example, to help stabilize the Sahel region, Japan, through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), implements measures to improve public services including the

<sup>29</sup> See the glossary on page 67.



support for residents of the Liptako-Gourma region,<sup>30</sup> and contributes to strengthening the foundation of the community.

Since the independence of South Sudan in 2011, Japan has supported its state-building. Currently, based on the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (the International Peace Cooperation Act), Self-Defense Forces personnel are deployed to the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) as its staff officers. Japan also assists South Sudan's own initiatives on the peace process including through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional organization in East Africa. Along with supporting infrastructure development, human resources development, and food assistance, Japan plays a major role in consolidating the peace and stabilizing the economy in South Sudan (see "Featured Project" on page 76 regarding support in the water sector in South Sudan).

Moreover, Japan supports the organization of

"National Unity Day," a national sports event to promote the reconciliation, friendship, and unity of its citizens. Inaugurated in 2016, it has been held annually by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of South Sudan. The seventh event took place from March to April in 2023, with the participation of 336 athletes under the age of 17 who represented the whole country. Also, in July 2023, as part of the "Project for Youth Empowerment through Sports for Peace Promotion," a total of 13 persons from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, etc., were invited for training in Japan, including observing sports competitions and visits to educational institutions. Through their experiences and exchanges of opinions during their visits, the participants reaffirmed the power of sports in promoting reconciliation and human resources development. It is important that the international community continues to cooperate and support the consolidation of peace in South Sudan so that the people can feel that peace has taken root and also keep conflict from resurging in the future.



## Glossary

### Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

An international summit-level conference on African development launched by Japan in 1993. Co-hosted with the UN, UNDP, the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC), it is a forum for African development to realize the principles of African "ownership" and international "partnership." TICAD 8 was held in Tunisia in August 2022, with the participation of 48 African countries, including 20 heads of state and government.

### New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA)

The new approach advocated by Japan at TICAD 7 held in Yokohama in August 2019, under which Japan supports 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 development of resilience at the local community level, based on the principles of respecting Africa's ownership and taking measures against root causes of conflict and terrorism. At TICAD 8 in August 2022, Japan also expressed its intention to support Africa-led efforts, under NAPSA, to achieve peace and stability, prerequisites for economic growth, investment, and better lives.

<sup>30</sup> A region bordering the three countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, where terrorist attacks occur frequently.



## Enhancing the Resilience of Communities with their Residents

Increasing Community Resilience through Strengthening of Road Infrastructure and Green Works in Northern Uganda

Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (March 2023 – March 2024)

Uganda



In the northern part of Uganda in East Africa, a conflict that started in the 1980s and lasted for over 20 years has resulted in a significant lag in infrastructure development, and the disparity with other regions has become an issue. Furthermore, as the region hosts large numbers of refugees from neighboring countries, such as South Sudan, under Uganda's open door policy for refugees, there are concerns about the environmental impact of refugees cutting down surrounding forests for fuel.

In response to the situation, a Japanese non-governmental organization, Community Road Empowerment (CORE), supports the revitalization of communities in the two northern districts (Gulu and Kitgum Districts) by improving residents' livelihoods and enhancing local resilience. With the goal of "infrastructure development and environmental conservation that we can do ourselves," CORE works to (1) carry out rural road repair activities



Road repair training using Do-nou technology  
(Photo: CORE)



A Japanese staff discussing the continuity of future activities with trainees (Photo: CORE)

using Do-nou (sandbag) technology, (2) restore green areas through resident-led establishment of tree nurseries and afforestation, and (3) create "energy-saving stoves" that can reduce the amount of firewood used for cooking by 70%. In addition, CORE provides environmental education to elementary school students, as well as supports female students by distributing sanitary items and giving instruction on how to sew them.

Regarding the Do-nou technology, CORE transfers the skill to 150 trainees a year, leading to the employment of young people. It also helps the locals to register themselves as groups with the local government so that they can continue their activities sustainably. In Gulu District, 560 meters of rural roads have been repaired so far. As for green works, while progress is made in resident-led seedling production, CORE aims to green 10 hectares a year through tree-planting events that involve all residents. In addition, 331 stoves have been made, and their practical use in households has begun.

Chart IV

## Japan's Bilateral ODA by Region (2022)

(Unit: US\$ million)

Rank	Type Country or Region	Bilateral ODA								
		Grants				Government loans etc.		(A)-(B)	Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)			
	<b>Asia region total</b>	<b>342.16</b>	<b>222.96</b>	<b>477.57</b>	<b>1,042.69</b>	<b>9,954.64</b>	<b>4,471.12</b>	<b>5,483.52</b>	<b>6,526.20</b>	<b>10,997.33</b>
	East Asia region total	193.24	92.22	290.92	576.38	3,466.51	2,983.08	483.43	1,059.80	4,042.89
	(ASEAN total)* <sup>1</sup>	182.52	66.62	252.64	501.77	3,455.91	2,345.95	1,109.96	1,611.73	3,957.68
1	Philippines	7.83	26.67	64.13	98.63	1,369.49	388.72	980.78	1,079.41	1,468.13
2	Thailand	5.46	0.38	26.23	32.07	585.55	277.95	307.59	339.66	617.62
3	Indonesia	26.68	6.70	47.20	80.58	510.57	1,029.69	-519.12	-438.53	591.15
4	Cambodia	69.91	2.55	31.02	103.48	394.14	11.87	382.27	485.75	497.62
5	Viet Nam	33.92	4.07	37.78	75.77	311.03	555.49	-244.46	-168.69	386.80
6	Myanmar	14.17	22.92	16.30	53.38	267.14	—	267.14	320.52	320.52
7	Laos	24.07	2.13	22.19	48.38	17.98	5.85	12.13	60.52	66.37
8	Mongolia	5.56	—	20.06	25.62	5.46	28.38	-22.93	2.69	31.08
9	Timor-Leste	5.16	0.46	10.51	16.14	5.14	1.77	3.37	19.51	21.28
10	Malaysia	0.48	1.20	7.79	9.47	—	76.38	-76.38	-66.91	9.47
11	China	—	—	0.75	0.75	—	606.98	-606.98	-606.23	0.75
12	*Brunei	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
	Multiple countries in East Asia* <sup>2</sup>	—	25.14	6.96	32.10	—	—	—	32.10	32.10
	<b>Southwest Asia region total</b>	<b>105.74</b>	<b>85.50</b>	<b>153.38</b>	<b>344.62</b>	<b>6,321.89</b>	<b>1,302.37</b>	<b>5,019.52</b>	<b>5,364.14</b>	<b>6,666.51</b>
1	India	3.11	5.17	57.22	65.49	3,801.63	896.48	2,905.15	2,970.64	3,867.12
2	Bangladesh	23.18	21.67	38.06	82.91	2,291.73	91.63	2,200.11	2,283.02	2,374.65
3	Nepal	19.59	2.96	14.19	36.74	117.92	7.91	110.00	146.74	154.65
4	Sri Lanka	12.54	6.94	13.70	33.18	80.55	75.92	4.64	37.81	113.73
5	Pakistan	29.42	24.63	16.57	70.62	4.54	228.21	-223.67	-153.05	75.16
6	Bhutan	7.21	1.15	9.82	18.17	25.52	1.31	24.21	42.39	43.70
7	Maldives	10.69	3.46	2.69	16.84	—	0.92	-0.92	15.92	16.84
	Multiple countries in Southwest Asia* <sup>3</sup>	—	19.54	1.13	20.67	—	—	—	20.67	20.67
	<b>Central Asia and Caucasus region total</b>	<b>42.78</b>	<b>16.35</b>	<b>26.50</b>	<b>85.63</b>	<b>83.19</b>	<b>123.79</b>	<b>-40.59</b>	<b>45.04</b>	<b>168.83</b>
1	Uzbekistan	2.54	6.31	8.27	17.12	82.62	40.45	42.17	59.29	99.75
2	Tajikistan	19.56	5.33	5.07	29.96	—	—	—	29.96	29.96
3	Kyrgyz Republic	18.22	0.82	8.30	27.35	0.57	8.16	-7.59	19.76	27.92
4	Georgia	0.76	1.12	1.98	3.87	—	6.59	-6.59	-2.73	3.87
5	Azerbaijan	0.59	0.89	0.79	2.27	—	26.66	-26.66	-24.39	2.27
6	Armenia	0.82	0.90	0.52	2.24	—	8.54	-8.54	-6.30	2.24
7	Kazakhstan	0.21	0.97	0.87	2.06	—	31.72	-31.72	-29.67	2.06
8	Turkmenistan	0.07	—	0.34	0.42	—	1.66	-1.66	-1.25	0.42
	Multiple countries in Central Asia and Caucasus	—	—	0.36	0.36	—	—	—	0.36	0.36
	<b>Multiple countries in Asia*<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>28.89</b>	<b>6.77</b>	<b>36.05</b>	<b>83.05</b>	<b>61.88</b>	<b>21.17</b>	<b>57.22</b>	<b>119.10</b>
	<b>Oceania region total</b>	<b>89.55</b>	<b>4.19</b>	<b>32.62</b>	<b>126.37</b>	<b>123.59</b>	<b>14.61</b>	<b>108.98</b>	<b>235.35</b>	<b>249.96</b>
1	Fiji	4.36	—	4.49	8.85	76.09	0.92	75.16	84.02	84.94
2	Papua New Guinea	9.96	1.21	6.70	17.87	39.61	10.49	29.12	46.99	57.48
3	Solomon Islands	26.92	—	2.17	29.09	—	—	—	29.09	29.09
4	Palau	5.31	—	5.91	11.22	7.89	0.48	7.41	18.63	19.11
5	Federated States of Micronesia	15.19	—	0.43	15.63	—	—	—	15.63	15.63
6	Tonga	5.40	2.05	4.38	11.84	—	—	—	11.84	11.84
7	Marshall Islands	10.77	—	0.89	11.67	—	—	—	11.67	11.67
8	Samoa	1.74	—	2.15	3.89	—	1.52	-1.52	2.38	3.89
9	Kiribati	2.68	—	0.34	3.02	—	—	—	3.02	3.02
10	Tuvalu	2.53	—	0.02	2.55	—	—	—	2.55	2.55
11	Vanuatu	0.63	—	1.69	2.31	—	1.20	-1.20	1.12	2.31
12	Nauru	1.74	—	0.00	1.74	—	—	—	1.74	1.74
13	*Cook Islands	1.22	—	0.00	1.22	—	—	—	1.22	1.22
14	Niue	0.91	—	0.00	0.91	—	—	—	0.91	0.91



Rank	Type Country or Region	Bilateral ODA								
		Grants				Government loans etc.			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
15	[Tokelau]	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
	Multiple countries in Oceania	0.18	0.93	3.45	4.56	—	—	—	4.56	4.56
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean region total</b>		<b>60.47</b>	<b>31.45</b>	<b>111.42</b>	<b>203.33</b>	<b>713.93</b>	<b>222.12</b>	<b>491.81</b>	<b>695.15</b>	<b>917.27</b>
1	Dominican Republic	0.33	—	7.47	7.80	193.85	3.27	190.59	198.39	201.66
2	Colombia	0.92	—	2.22	3.14	139.15	—	139.15	142.29	142.29
3	Panama	0.21	0.73	3.46	4.40	113.27	23.47	89.80	94.21	117.68
4	Honduras	8.03	—	4.22	12.25	87.98	—	87.98	100.24	100.24
5	Brazil	0.50	—	15.43	15.93	70.61	77.64	-7.03	8.90	86.54
6	Ecuador	1.49	—	5.33	6.82	37.58	3.23	34.35	41.18	44.40
7	El Salvador	2.06	—	7.27	9.33	30.98	20.40	10.58	19.91	40.31
8	Bolivia	20.20	—	6.41	26.61	0.14	—	0.14	26.75	26.75
9	Mexico	0.04	—	8.52	8.56	16.49	2.02	14.47	23.03	25.05
10	Paraguay	0.75	—	4.63	5.38	14.64	27.61	-12.97	-7.59	20.02
11	Guatemala	3.06	0.06	6.73	9.85	—	9.86	-9.86	-0.01	9.85
12	Saint Lucia	7.72	—	1.29	9.01	—	—	—	9.01	9.01
13	Peru	0.61	—	5.08	5.69	1.07	38.57	-37.50	-31.82	6.76
14	Haiti	5.55	—	0.25	5.80	—	—	—	5.80	5.80
15	Dominica	5.28	—	—	5.28	—	—	—	5.28	5.28
16	Costa Rica	0.09	—	0.72	0.82	4.17	13.66	-9.49	-8.68	4.99
17	Venezuela	0.63	3.91	0.18	4.72	—	—	—	4.72	4.72
18	Nicaragua	0.61	—	3.43	4.04	0.46	—	0.46	4.50	4.50
19	Cuba	0.27	0.05	4.07	4.38	—	—	—	4.38	4.38
20	*Chile	0.33	—	3.70	4.03	—	0.77	-0.77	3.26	4.03
21	Argentina	0.23	—	3.27	3.50	—	1.34	-1.34	2.17	3.50
22	Jamaica	0.60	—	0.86	1.45	1.31	—	1.31	2.76	2.76
23	*Trinidad and Tobago	—	—	1.27	1.27	—	—	—	1.27	1.27
24	Belize	0.45	—	0.48	0.94	—	—	—	0.94	0.94
25	Saint Vincent	—	—	0.84	0.84	—	—	—	0.84	0.84
26	*Uruguay	0.27	—	0.27	0.54	—	—	—	0.54	0.54
27	Suriname	0.21	—	—	0.21	—	—	—	0.21	0.21
28	*Barbados	—	—	0.13	0.13	—	—	—	0.13	0.13
29	Guyana	0.02	—	0.05	0.08	—	—	—	0.08	0.08
30	*Antigua and Barbuda	—	—	0.02	0.02	—	—	—	0.02	0.02
31	Grenada	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
32	*Saint Christopher and Nevis	—	—	0.01	0.01	—	—	—	0.01	0.01
	Multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean	—	26.70	13.77	40.47	2.22	0.28	1.94	42.41	42.69
<b>Europe region total</b>		<b>28.62</b>	<b>126.43</b>	<b>15.71</b>	<b>170.75</b>	<b>648.72</b>	<b>54.89</b>	<b>593.83</b>	<b>764.58</b>	<b>819.47</b>
1	Ukraine	21.09	108.12	3.90	133.10	593.63	15.87	577.77	710.87	726.74
2	Serbia	0.45	1.01	2.29	3.75	45.61	23.97	21.65	25.40	49.37
3	Moldova	5.01	13.39	1.06	19.46	9.23	—	9.23	28.69	28.69
4	Kosovo	0.34	0.70	3.58	4.62	—	—	—	4.62	4.62
5	Albania	0.62	0.93	2.28	3.83	0.15	5.36	-5.20	-1.37	3.98
6	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.23	1.87	0.43	2.54	0.09	5.71	-5.63	-3.09	2.62
7	North Macedonia	0.65	—	1.00	1.65	—	3.98	-3.98	-2.33	1.65
8	Montenegro	0.10	—	0.51	0.61	—	—	—	0.61	0.61
9	Belarus	0.12	0.41	0.03	0.57	—	—	—	0.57	0.57
	Multiple countries in Europe*5	—	—	0.62	0.62	—	—	—	0.62	0.62
<b>Middle East and North Africa region total</b>		<b>52.03</b>	<b>315.98</b>	<b>74.08</b>	<b>442.10</b>	<b>1,913.04</b>	<b>641.90</b>	<b>1,271.15</b>	<b>1,713.24</b>	<b>2,355.14</b>
1	Iraq	0.35	16.70	5.87	22.92	753.65	179.47	574.18	597.09	776.56
2	Egypt	3.55	4.70	16.43	24.68	430.62	160.08	270.54	295.22	455.29
3	Türkiye	0.50	1.82	0.91	3.22	431.68	113.79	317.89	321.12	434.91
4	Afghanistan	5.07	141.62	9.98	156.67	—	—	—	156.67	156.67

Rank	Type Country or Region	Bilateral ODA								
		Grants				Government loans etc.			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
5	Jordan	9.98	7.25	5.54	22.77	114.13	51.05	63.08	85.86	136.90
6	Morocco	0.15	—	4.72	4.87	123.37	71.45	51.92	56.79	128.24
7	Tunisia	4.84	1.45	5.74	12.02	56.62	53.09	3.53	15.54	68.64
8	[Palestine]	17.39	29.51	16.75	63.65	—	—	—	63.65	63.65
9	Syria	1.29	41.86	1.75	44.90	—	—	—	44.90	44.90
10	Iran	0.98	24.90	3.99	29.86	—	4.62	-4.62	25.24	29.86
11	Yemen	0.76	28.79	0.14	29.69	—	—	—	29.69	29.69
12	Lebanon	0.94	11.52	0.22	12.68	—	2.65	-2.65	10.03	12.68
13	Libya	—	3.03	0.03	3.06	—	—	—	3.06	3.06
14	Algeria	0.17	1.40	0.55	2.12	—	0.61	-0.61	1.51	2.12
15	*Saudi Arabia	—	—	0.83	0.83	—	—	—	0.83	0.83
16	*United Arab Emirates	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
17	*Bahrain	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
(Middle East subtotal)*6		37.26	303.96	45.97	387.20	1,299.46	351.58	947.88	1,335.08	1,686.66
(North Africa subtotal)*7		8.70	10.57	27.47	46.74	610.60	285.24	325.37	372.11	657.34
Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa*8		6.06	1.45	0.64	8.16	2.98	5.08	-2.11	6.05	11.14
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa region total</b>		<b>354.71</b>	<b>343.84</b>	<b>316.41</b>	<b>1,014.96</b>	<b>662.47</b>	<b>111.78</b>	<b>550.69</b>	<b>1,565.65</b>	<b>1,677.43</b>
1	Kenya	9.36	10.41	42.81	62.58	181.45	58.31	123.13	185.72	244.03
2	Côte d'Ivoire	32.70	0.12	8.36	41.18	99.77	—	99.77	140.94	140.94
3	Mozambique	30.76	7.04	15.28	53.07	53.44	2.27	51.17	104.24	106.51
4	Senegal	19.97	2.29	20.49	42.76	49.48	0.23	49.25	92.00	92.24
5	Madagascar	16.56	5.07	10.57	32.20	49.65	—	49.65	81.85	81.85
6	Rwanda	28.46	3.68	16.54	48.68	18.80	—	18.80	67.48	67.48
7	Ghana	34.64	11.00	16.02	61.66	0.31	—	0.31	61.97	61.97
8	Ethiopia	17.40	24.17	13.74	55.31	1.89	—	1.89	57.20	57.20
9	Uganda	5.13	2.31	12.81	20.24	22.54	12.25	10.28	30.53	42.78
10	Tanzania	10.35	1.07	9.36	20.78	11.80	8.95	2.85	23.63	32.58
11	Somalia	—	29.16	1.28	30.45	—	—	—	30.45	30.45
12	Nigeria	2.44	19.89	7.72	30.05	—	4.34	-4.34	25.71	30.05
13	Burkina Faso	9.61	15.09	5.10	29.79	—	—	—	29.79	29.79
14	Djibouti	18.12	0.70	9.48	28.31	—	—	—	28.31	28.31
15	Malawi	9.20	9.24	8.80	27.24	—	—	—	27.24	27.24
16	Cameroon	6.74	11.06	6.09	23.88	1.55	1.76	-0.20	23.68	25.44
17	Sierra Leone	6.23	12.04	6.42	24.69	—	—	—	24.69	24.69
18	Guinea	17.91	3.52	2.88	24.31	—	—	—	24.31	24.31
19	Democratic Republic of the Congo	4.82	6.34	10.81	21.96	—	—	—	21.96	21.96
20	South Sudan	6.64	5.53	7.38	19.55	—	—	—	19.55	19.55
21	Zambia	0.66	1.13	12.13	13.93	3.29	—	3.29	17.21	17.21
22	Burundi	8.38	5.54	1.23	15.14	—	—	—	15.14	15.14
23	Sudan	6.78	0.03	6.65	13.47	—	—	—	13.47	13.47
24	Chad	2.28	10.82	0.09	13.19	—	—	—	13.19	13.19
25	Niger	4.34	5.58	2.89	12.81	—	—	—	12.81	12.81
26	Mauritania	8.12	—	1.79	9.91	—	—	—	9.91	9.91
27	Zimbabwe	3.37	1.90	3.42	8.69	—	—	—	8.69	8.69
28	Mauritius	4.35	—	1.27	5.63	2.93	2.51	0.42	6.05	8.56
29	Botswana	0.18	0.40	2.04	2.62	4.95	3.59	1.36	3.98	7.58
30	Central Africa	—	7.05	0.03	7.08	—	—	—	7.08	7.08
31	Cabo Verde	4.58	0.23	0.26	5.06	1.67	2.58	-0.91	4.16	6.73
32	Gambia	6.29	—	0.18	6.47	—	—	—	6.47	6.47
33	Liberia	1.90	1.89	2.19	5.98	—	—	—	5.98	5.98
34	Mali	0.14	4.12	1.35	5.61	—	—	—	5.61	5.61
35	Angola	0.97	1.71	2.79	5.47	—	—	—	5.47	5.47
36	Comoros	2.28	3.10	0.05	5.43	—	—	—	5.43	5.43
37	Namibia	0.38	3.26	1.77	5.41	—	—	—	5.41	5.41
38	Togo	4.49	—	0.91	5.40	—	—	—	5.40	5.40

Rank	Type Country or Region	Bilateral ODA								
		Grants				Government loans etc.			Total (Net disbursement)	Total (Gross disbursement)
		Grant aid	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	Technical cooperation	Total	Amount disbursed (A)	Amount recovered (B)	(A)-(B)		
39	Benin	2.24	1.01	1.98	5.23	—	—	—	5.23	5.23
40	South Africa	0.10	—	4.97	5.07	—	—	—	5.07	5.07
41	Republic of the Congo	—	4.59	0.33	4.92	—	—	—	4.92	4.92
42	Lesotho	0.47	3.67	0.36	4.50	—	—	—	4.50	4.50
43	Guinea-Bissau	—	3.67	0.20	3.87	—	—	—	3.87	3.87
44	Eswatini	0.05	2.53	1.11	3.68	—	1.53	-1.53	2.15	3.68
45	Gabon	0.41	—	2.85	3.27	—	—	—	3.27	3.27
46	Sao Tome and Principe	2.11	—	0.05	2.15	—	—	—	2.15	2.15
47	Equatorial Guinea	0.08	0.70	0.01	0.78	—	—	—	0.78	0.78
48	Eritrea	—	—	0.53	0.53	—	—	—	0.53	0.53
49	*Seychelles	—	—	0.07	0.07	—	—	—	0.07	0.07
	Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa*9	2.71	101.20	30.96	134.87	158.96	13.44	145.51	280.39	293.83
	<b>Assistance encompassing multiple regions</b>	<b>39.12</b>	<b>1248.16*10</b>	<b>1,340.82</b>	<b>2,628.10</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>2,632.14</b>	<b>2,632.14</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>966.66</b>	<b>2,293.02</b>	<b>2,368.63</b>	<b>5,628.30</b>	<b>14,020.44</b>	<b>5,516.41</b>	<b>8,504.02</b>	<b>14,132.33</b>	<b>19,648.74</b>

Notes:

- Ranking is based on gross disbursements.
  - The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
  - [—] indicates that no assistance was provided.
  - "Grant aid" above does not mean the grant aid scheme of Japan.
  - Aid to "multiple countries" refers to the aid, such as seminars and dispatchment of survey teams in multiple countries within a region.
  - "Assistance encompassing multiple regions" refers to assistance that cannot be regionally classified such as grants through multilateral institutions, etc. and technical cooperation including survey and research that do not target specific regions or countries.
  - Negative numbers show the recovered amount of loans exceeded the disbursed amount.
  - Countries with an asterisk \* are the graduated countries designated as "developing areas," and square brackets [ ] denote region names.
- \*1 "Figures of the (ASEAN total) are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam."
- \*2 Figures under "Multiple countries in East Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore do not incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Myanmar.
- \*3 Figures under "Multiple countries in Southwest Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Afghanistan, as well as for multiple countries including Myanmar.
- \*4 Figures under "Multiple countries in Asia" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including some areas of the Middle East.
- \*5 Figures under "Multiple countries in Europe" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Türkiye.
- \*6 Figures of the "Middle East subtotal" are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, [Palestine], Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- \*7 Figures of the "North Africa subtotal" are the total amount of Japan's bilateral ODA disbursements for Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.
- \*8 Figures under "Multiple countries in the Middle East and North Africa" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore do not incorporate disbursements for multiple countries including Afghanistan, for multiple countries including Türkiye, and for multiple countries that cut across North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- \*9 Figures under "Multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa" utilize data based on the DAC criteria, and therefore incorporate disbursements for multiple countries that cut across some areas of North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- \*10 Figures under "Grants through multilateral institutions, etc." include debt relief figures.



# Part V

## Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation



A Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) teaching Judo to children in Tunisia with a colleague at the Tunisian Judo Federation Kalaat Andalous branch (Photo: Ahmed Souayed/JICA)

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# Promotion of Effective and Strategic Development Cooperation

## 1

### Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation

The new Development Cooperation Charter sets forth “co-creation” as the basic policy of ODA whereby various actors, such as the private sector and public financial institutions, bring their respective strengths in relation to various development challenges without established solutions, and engage in dialogue and collaboration to create new social values.

#### (1) Partnership with Private Sector

The Government of Japan strives to effectively leverage the collective strengths of the Japanese private sector in ODA projects implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA through effective mobilization of their advanced technologies, knowledge, experiences, and financial resources. The government also promotes and strengthens partnerships with the private sector in investment projects, with the intention of implementing effective, efficient projects and enhancing development outcomes, through incorporating private-sector knowledge and expertise when formulating ODA projects, and assigning different roles to the public and private actors, with ODA covering basic infrastructure development and the private sector undertaking investment, operation, and maintenance, for instance.

#### A. Proposal-Based Public-Private Partnership Support Facilities

In order to proactively solicit views and incorporate proposals from the Japanese private sector in ODA projects, the Government of Japan and JICA facilitate support for private sector proposals for public-private partnerships, 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 promotes collaboration with a variety of partners with the aim to incorporate uninhibited ideas from the private sector in development cooperation, and to provide solutions to local development challenges with a business mindset by tapping into private-sector products and technologies. JICA calls for submissions on its website, and screens the proposals of companies based on their project plans.

The cumulative number of projects adopted under the SDGs Business Supporting Survey between 2010 and 2023 amounted to 1,516. In FY2023, a total of 68 projects in 29 countries were adopted; 32 projects for the Needs Confirmation Survey, 23 projects for the SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector, 12 projects for the “SME Support Type,” and 1 project for the “SDGs Business Support Type” (see also “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on pages 27 and 135. For more information about the program’s framework, project fields and countries, and other details, see JICA’s website <sup>1</sup>).



Experiment of drone transportation of blood products in Mongolia (Aeronext Inc./SDGs Business Supporting Surveys)

##### ■ Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance

Recent years have seen a growing trend of infrastructure development through public-private partnerships in developing countries and of economic and social development through private-sector projects. JICA implements its Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) to formulate projects that utilize private-sector funds on the premise that public support is provided. JICA supports feasibility studies for the formulation of business plans and calls for proposals widely from the private sector that explore the possibility of participating in projects in developing countries (for more information about the program’s framework, target areas and countries, and other details, see the JICA website). <sup>2</sup> The total number of projects adopted from 2010 to FY2022 has reached 86, and in 2023, one project was adopted in Asia.

<sup>1</sup> About SDGs Business Supporting Surveys [https://www.jica.go.jp/priv\\_partner/activities/sme/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/sme/index.html) (in Japanese only)

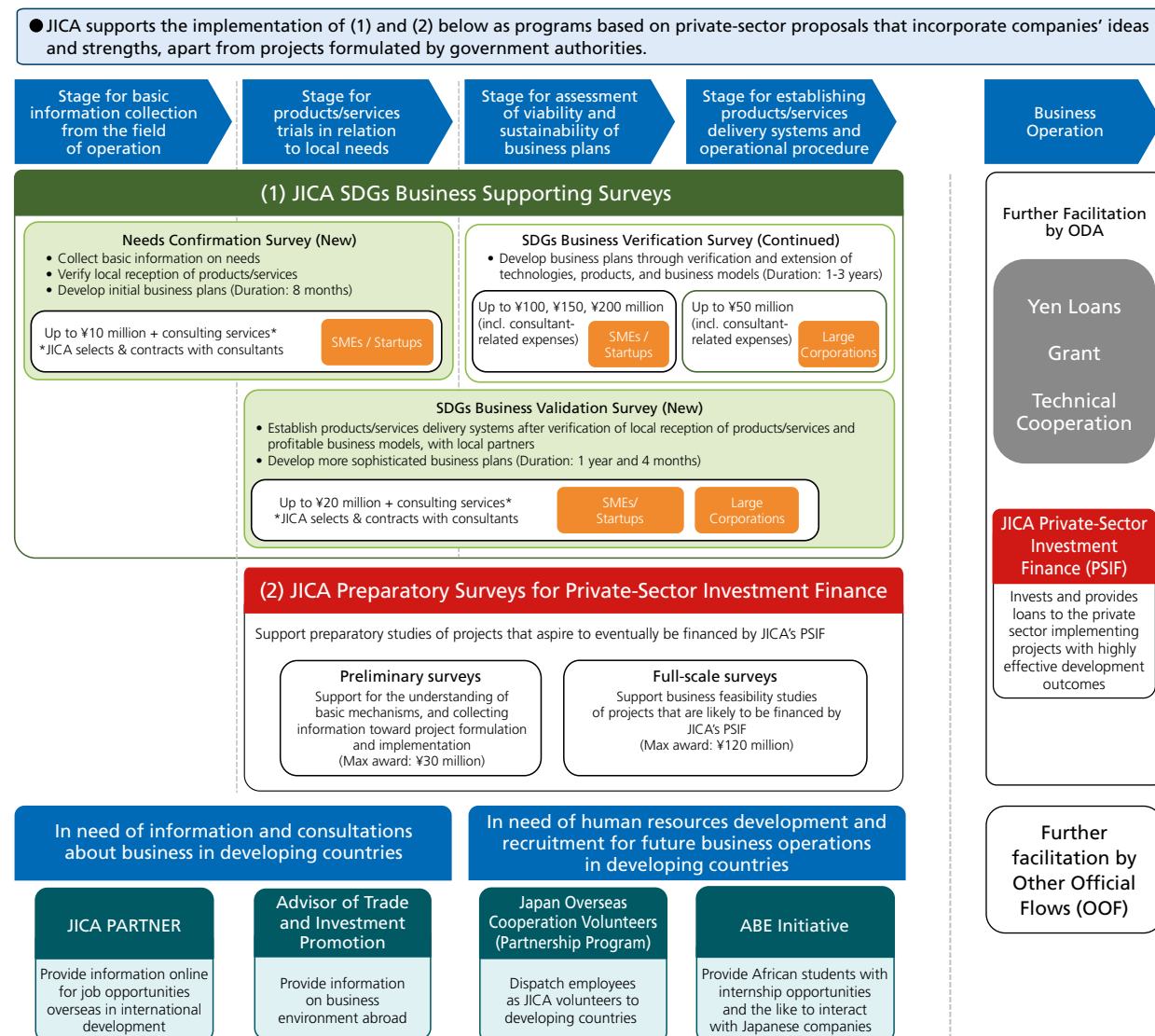
<sup>2</sup> Preparatory Surveys for Private-Sector Investment Finance [https://www.jica.go.jp/priv\\_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/priv_partner/activities/psiffs/index.html) (in Japanese only)

## ■ JICA Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program

Under the “JICA Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program,” established in 2012, 129 volunteers have been dispatched to 38 countries by March 2023 and JICA has actively supported the overseas expansion of companies through this program. Through their activities, volunteers are expected to learn unique business practices and identify the market needs in the

countries of their assignment, and then to apply such understanding to their business activities in Japan upon their return. In April 2023, together with other facilities for the university partnership volunteer program and the local government partnership volunteer program, this program was integrated into the “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Partnership Program)” (see also “Featured Project” on page 146).

**Chart V-1 ODA Facilities to Support Public-Private Partnership**



## B. Private-Sector Investment Finance

Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)\* refers to a type of ODA financing scheme in which JICA provides investments and loans to the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries that are considered highly effective from a development perspective but not able to attract sufficient funding from private financial institutions. As JICA signed a total of 114 investment and loan contracts from 2011 to the end

of FY2022, many Japanese companies are engaged (for more information about the program's framework, target areas, conditions, and other details, see the JICA website).<sup>3</sup> Recent examples of successful PSIF projects include a wind power project in Laos (loan project) and a project designed to support start-up companies in Africa (investment in funds), both of which were signed in 2023. The former is the first wind power generation project in Laos, and the power will be sold cross-border to

<sup>3</sup> Private-Sector Investment Finance [https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance\\_co/loan/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/schemes/finance_co/loan/index.html) (in Japanese only)



Vietnam Electricity (EVN), contributing to strengthening the connectivity in the Mekong region. This project will help increase the power supply from renewable energy sources in Laos, where a wind farm will be constructed, while addressing climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Viet Nam. The latter aims to help boost sustainable economic growth in Africa through investments in venture capital funds for start-up companies that create innovative solutions to social challenges in areas such as financial inclusion, healthcare, and climate change. While Japan has supported entrepreneurs in Africa through “Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan)”<sup>4</sup> and other programs, this project will expand the scope of Japan’s support to include financial assistance for early-stage start-ups. Furthermore, it is expected to enhance the collaboration between Japanese companies and start-ups in Africa.

At the side-event on the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) held during the G7 Hiroshima Summit on May 20, 2023, Prime Minister Kishida made a commitment that Japan will contribute to sustainable development in partner countries through public and private infrastructure investment. Based on this commitment, Japan established financing facilities in three areas – climate change actions, food security, and financial inclusion (see Part I, Section 2 on page 9 for details).

Japan’s development cooperation takes place in partnership with diverse actors. In implementing development cooperation, it is important for the government to strengthen collaboration between JICA and other agencies responsible for handling other

official flows (OOF) such as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC),<sup>\*</sup> Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI), the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN), the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan’s ICT and Postal Services (JICT), and the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC) and to serve as a catalyst for mobilizing and assembling a wide range of resources, including private sector ones.

In addition, utilizing the organizations’ extensive experience and expertise in developing countries, international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), assist Japanese companies in practicing inclusive businesses.<sup>\*</sup>

### C. Grant for Supporting Business and Management Rights

Since FY2014, the Government of Japan has made available Grants for Supporting Business and Management Rights, with which Japanese companies are engaged at all stages of public works projects in developing countries, from facility development to operation, maintenance, and management of those facilities. This grant is designed to support Japanese companies in leveraging their technologies and know-how in the socio-economic development efforts of developing countries through the acquisition of business and management rights in such public-private partnership projects.



## Glossary

### SDGs Business Supporting Surveys

The program builds on proposals from the private sector to assist in matching the needs of developing countries with the advanced products and technologies, etc., possessed by the Japanese private sector, and facilitates the development of businesses that help solve problems in these countries. The program is expected to not only support Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in expanding their businesses abroad, but also stimulate the domestic economy and local communities in Japan (see also Chart V-1 on page 129).

### Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF)

A type of ODA financing scheme implemented by JICA that provides the private sector carrying out projects in developing countries with necessary financing in the form of investments and loans. Although projects in developing countries create jobs and revitalize the economy of hosting countries, they entail various risks, and high returns cannot often be expected. Thus, private financial institutions are often reluctant to provide these companies with sufficient financing. PSIF provides investments and loans to projects in developing countries in a way to support their development. PSIF assists in the fields of (1) infrastructure development and growth acceleration and (2) SDGs including poverty reduction and climate change actions.

### Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

A policy-based financial institution wholly owned by the Japanese government. While its primary purpose is to supplement the services of general financial institutions, its goal is to contribute to the sound development of Japan and the international economy and society. To this end, JBIC operates in the fields of (1) promoting the overseas development and securement of resources that are important for Japan, (2) maintaining and improving the international competitiveness of Japanese industries, (3) promoting overseas businesses that also work to preserve the global environment, such as preventing global warming, and (4) preventing disruptions to international financial order or taking appropriate measures with respect to damages caused by such disruptions.

### Inclusive business

Inclusive business is a generic term for business models 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 (businesses expected to help solve social issues through the engagement of low-income groups (Base of the Economic Pyramid) in developing countries and regions).

<sup>4</sup> See 23 on page 144.

## (2) Partnership with Other Countries and International Organizations

### A. Partnership in the G7 and G20

In 2023, as the holder of the G7 Presidency, Japan led discussions on how to address critical issues facing the international community, including development (see Part I, Section 2 for details). In addition, as part of the G7's development-related efforts, it held the G7 Senior Development Officials (SDOs) Meeting in Tokyo in February, and reaffirmed the importance of solidarity with developing countries by issuing the Chair's Summary of the discussions in March. Furthermore, in preparation for the Hiroshima Summit, Japan expressed its intention to accelerate progress on priority issues in development cooperation, including development finance, the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), food security, nutrition, humanitarian assistance, climate change, health, disaster risk reduction, and education.

As for the G20, the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting took place in Varanasi, India, in June 2023. From Japan, then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei attended the meeting and called on the G20 members to reaffirm their strong commitment to achieving the SDGs amid the widening financing gap. He also held a separate talk with the attendees of each G20 member and reassured collaboration with them in the field of development.

As for the G20 New Delhi Summit in September, Prime Minister Kishida attended from Japan. With the intention of linking the outcomes of the G7 Hiroshima Summit to the G20, Prime Minister Kishida actively laid out Japan's positions and efforts on critical issues facing the international community. The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, which was issued at the end of the Summit, featured the outcomes of the G7 in areas such as food security, environment, and health.

In Session 1 "One Earth," Prime Minister Kishida pointed out that Russia's aggression against Ukraine is exacerbating the difficulties facing the global economy, including on food and energy, and that the G20 needs to address them. Regarding food issues, Prime Minister Kishida noted that a concrete action plan was formulated at the G7 Hiroshima Summit with the participation of invited countries, which confirmed the value of such initiatives as the "Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)," launched by the G20 to enhance data gathering, and the "Millet and Other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI)," promoted by India. He also expressed his willingness to work on building sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems. On climate and energy, Prime Minister Kishida stated that it is imperative to transform into a decarbonized economy through inclusive investments without compromising economic growth and energy security. Highlighting the need to aim to achieve the common goal of net zero

through various pathways in accordance with national circumstances, he also underscored Japan's intention to utilize all technologies and energy sources to promote innovation and support efforts in each country.

In Session 3 "One Future," Prime Minister Kishida noted that in order to overcome the challenges facing the international community and realize a better future, it is necessary to reform multilateral systems. He pointed out that as the future of the world depends on the future of developing countries, it is essential to support their sustainable growth, and stated that Japan would work on the evolution of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in order to meet the development needs of developing countries. He went on to state that it is necessary for more creditor and debtor countries to share the importance of transparent and fair development finance in compliance with international rules and standards, and that such efforts should also be promoted at the G20. Prime Minister Kishida emphasized that in order to respond to the debt problem of developing countries, which is becoming serious, it is essential to promptly carry out debt restructuring under the "Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)" and through official creditor committees for Sri Lanka and other debtor countries. Furthermore, Prime Minister Kishida stated that when investing in infrastructure, the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" should be respected. He also highlighted that Japan has pledged in its new plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" announced in March 2023 more than \$75 billion in public and private funds for the infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region by 2030, and that Japan intends to grow together with each country. Regarding health, Prime Minister Kishida stated that his priorities are achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and strengthening prevention, preparedness and response (PPR) for a possible next health crisis, including the provision of prompt and efficient funding in times of crisis. In particular, he stated that the G20 has confirmed the importance of strengthening the delivery of medical countermeasures (MCMs), which was advocated at the G7 Hiroshima Summit, and that



Prime Minister Kishida attending Session 1 and the working lunch of the G20 New Delhi Summit (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Japan looks forwards to working with G20 members, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and other partners.

## **B. Dialogue with Major Donors**

Japan holds dialogues with major donors to exchange views on priority issues and policies. Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei exchanged views online with Mr. Mitchell, Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom in January 2023 and with Mr. Sajjan, then Minister of International Development of Canada in February 2023, and concurred respectively to cooperate toward the G7 Summit. In addition, the Japan-UK Development Policy Dialogue (at the Director-General level) was held in London in February.

In October 2023, based on the Japan-U.S.-ROK Summit in August 2023, the Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Development and Humanitarian Assistance Policy Dialogue (at the Director-General level) took place. The three countries reaffirmed their commitments to a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” through the promotion of trilateral development cooperation. Japan also held the Japan-U.S. Development Policy Dialogue and Japan-ROK Development Policy Dialogue (both at the Director-General level) on this occasion.

The members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are traditionally engaged in development cooperation. However, emerging countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Brazil, and South Africa, have become active in providing assistance to developing countries in recent years. Through such assistance, these emerging countries have come to gain considerable influence over development issues. In cooperation with other countries, including emerging countries, Japan supports emerging countries in providing developing countries with assistance in an effective manner.

With regard to Japan-China relations, the Second Japan-China International Development Cooperation Policy Consultation was held in June 2021. Both countries exchanged views on various development issues and foreign aid from China.

The “Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)” is a multi-stakeholder platform for driving the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation, bringing together not only donor countries but also a wide range of stakeholders, including developing countries, international organizations, private sectors, civil society, and local public entities for discussions. In conjunction with the partnership, the Busan Global Partnership Forum took place in December 2023, and reaffirmed the importance

of GPEDC’s four principles: country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability.

## **C. Partnership with International Organizations**

To address various developmental and humanitarian issues as well as global challenges, Japan promotes collaboration with international organizations.

Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei received a courtesy call from Mr. Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund in March 2023, and from Dr. Avafia, Deputy Executive Director of Unitaid, and Mr. Gore, Executive Director of Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) in June. Foreign Minister Kamikawa held meetings with Mr. Lazzarini, Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and Mr. Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who both visited Japan in October.

In addition, in order to facilitate assistance through partnerships with international organizations, Japan also holds dialogues with major international organizations, including UN agencies. In 2023, Japan engaged in regular policy dialogues with the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and others (see “Stories from the Field” on page 150 for Japanese personnel who work at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and page 50 for Japanese personnel who work at international organizations).

## **D. Partnership with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)**

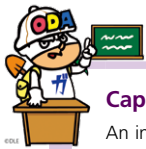
Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)<sup>5</sup> is a generic term for international organizations that support poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development in developing countries. As poverty worsens and inequality widens due to cross-border challenges such as the pandemic and climate change, the World Bank and other MDBs promote initiatives, including MDBs evolution, toward strengthening the response to global issues and the use of existing capital to respond to increasing development financing needs (CAF Review).\*

The importance of MDBs evolution for enhancing their functions was also discussed at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May and the G20 New Delhi Summit in September, where the leaders of each country endorsed the MDB evolution agenda. Japan has led the discussions as a holder of the G7 Presidency, and it is expected that the support of the G7 will help increase the lending capacity of the World Bank by more than \$35 billion.

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<sup>5</sup> See the glossary on page 32.





## Glossary

### Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF) Review

An independent review of the CAF of MDBs, a G20 initiative, which explores measures to maximize the use of MDBs' existing capital. A roadmap featuring the progress and other information of the CAF review was formulated at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in July 2023, and reported at the G20 New Delhi Summit in September.

## Featured Project

### Delivering Medical Assistance to Refugee Children

Medical, Health, and Psychosocial Support in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon  
Japan Platform (JPF) (September 2022 – June 2023)  
Lebanon



Due to the political and social turmoil in the Middle East since 2011, there are many displaced persons staying in Lebanon. This includes double refugees, such as Palestinian refugees who were forced to leave their first host country, Syria, due to its crisis. The majority of displaced persons in Lebanon are forced to live in poor conditions. Meanwhile, the host communities also bear heavy social and economic burdens. In particular, children, women, and persons with disabilities need more support as they are put in particularly vulnerable positions.

In response to this situation, the Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP Japan), one of the member organizations of the Japan Platform (JPF),\*1 focuses on the fact that there is a significant lack of medical care, especially dental and psychiatric support



A Japanese staff conducting an interview with one of the guardians of the children receiving medical support (Photo: CCP Japan)



A child in a refugee camp receiving dental treatment (Photo: CCP Japan)

for children, in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. With the support of the Government of Japan, CCP Japan provided dental care, hygiene education, child psychiatry treatment, and psychosocial support to approximately 6,000 people in seven refugee camps. In addition, CCP Japan conducted human resources development for social workers and those involved in volunteering activities.

Japan will continue to stand by and provide attentive support to vulnerable persons through JPF and its member NGOs.

\*1 See the glossary on page 137.

## (3) Cooperation with Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs implement development cooperation activities that directly benefit residents in accordance with their needs in various fields in developing countries and regions. Even in places affected by conflict or natural disasters, such as earthquakes and typhoons, they provide prompt and effective emergency humanitarian assistance. Being close to different local populations in developing countries, NGOs are capable of carefully tailoring responses to the needs of the local people. Accordingly, NGOs are well placed to provide assistance at the grassroots level, which can be hard-to-reach through the support of the government and international organizations. As the Government of Japan newly positions Japanese NGOs that engage in “visible development cooperation” as strategic partners in development cooperation, its collaboration with the NGOs is centered around the three pillars of assistance:

financial cooperation for NGO projects, support to capacity building of NGOs, and dialogues with NGOs (see also the MOFA website 6 for more information on international cooperation and NGOs).

### A. Financial Cooperation for NGOs' Projects

The Government of Japan cooperates with Japanese NGOs in various ways and helps them smoothly and effectively carry out projects in development cooperation and emergency humanitarian assistance in developing countries and regions.

#### ■ Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects

The Government of Japan, through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, provides financial support to the socio-economic development projects that Japanese NGOs implement in developing countries. The grant covers a wide range of fields, such as health, medical care and sanitation, rural development, assistance for persons

6 Cooperation with NGOs [https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page\\_000025.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page_000025.html)



Local residents participating in training provided by a Japanese NGO as part of efforts to address the risk of children dropping out of school (Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects) (Photo: AAR Japan [Association for Aid and Relief, Japan])

with disabilities, education, disaster risk reduction, and landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal. In FY2022, 57 Japanese NGOs received grants under the scheme, to implement 117 projects in 41 countries and 1 region, amounting to approximately ¥7 billion (see also “Featured Project” on page 122).

#### ■ Japan Platform (JPF)

Japan Platform (JPF)\* supports and coordinates emergency humanitarian activities of NGOs in cooperation with Japanese NGOs, the business community, and the government. In FY2022, JPF implemented 142 projects under 18 programs, including Response to Iraq and Syria Humanitarian Crisis, Response to Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis, Myanmar Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Humanitarian Assistance for Palestine/Gaza, Humanitarian Response to South Sudan Conflict, Humanitarian Response to Ethiopia Conflict, Response to Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis, Emergency Response to Pakistan Floods, Emergency Response to Southeast Türkiye Earthquake, and Response to Food Crisis (see also “Japan’s Efforts in Ukraine and Its Neighboring Countries” on page 110 and “Featured



Japanese NGO staff conducting an emergency initial assessment in the affected area two days after the earthquake occurred in central Morocco (Japan’s emergency humanitarian assistance through JPF) (Photo: Peace Winds Japan)

Project” on page 133). As of December 2023, 47 NGOs are registered with JPF.

#### ■ NGO Project Subsidies

NGO Project Subsidies is another form of financial support from the Government of Japan available to Japanese NGOs. The scheme supports three types of projects: “research projects” that identify and formulate development cooperation projects and conduct post-project evaluations, “international cooperation-related projects in Japan” and “international cooperation-related projects based overseas,” which support the organization of and participation in training sessions and lectures in Japan and abroad with the aim of helping applicant NGOs expand and strengthen their international cooperation operations. In FY2022, the Government of Japan provided NGO Project Subsidies to six Japanese NGOs, and supported project formulation studies, post-project evaluations, and organization/participation in seminars and workshops including those held online, in Japan or abroad.

#### ■ JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is an effort in international cooperation where interested entities such as Japanese NGO/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other private organizations, local public entities, or universities assist local citizens in developing countries in getting involved in the economic and social development or reconstruction in their own areas. Leveraging their own technologies, knowledge, and experience, applicant organizations propose projects to JICA. Then, upon the approval of JICA, the organizations are contracted to implement the projects (see the JICA website <sup>7</sup> for information on program details among others). Through JPP, approximately 200 projects are implemented every year. The number of the countries where JPP operates has reached a cumulative total of approximately 80.



An NPO, Mirai Future of Kenya, and community volunteers conducting early pregnancy preventive activities at a community meeting in Machakos County, Kenya (JICA Partnership Program)

<sup>7</sup> JICA Partnership Program <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/activities/schemes/partner/partner.html>



# MASTER TECHNIQUES

from Japan  
to the World

4

## Japanese Company's Effort to Disseminate Cultivation and Processing Techniques for "Washi" Paper Raw Material "Mitsumata" (Oriental Paperbush) in Its Country of Origin, Nepal



Approximately 80% of the land in Nepal is mountainous, and combined with its geographical constraints as a landlocked country, basic infrastructure is not adequately developed. Agriculture is a major industry in which 60% of the population is engaged, but productivity is low due to a lack of infrastructure and production technology, which is a major cause of poverty in rural areas.

Kanpou Inc. is a Japanese company based in Osaka and engaged in the sale of government publications as well as Mitsumata (*Edgeworthia Chrysantha*, commonly known as Paperbush and called Argeli in Nepal), a raw material for Japanese traditional paper called "washi." Faced with this situation in Nepal, the company utilizes JICA SDGs Business Supporting Surveys and transfers technology for the cultivation and processing of Mitsumata in Nepal, aiming to revitalize Nepal's agriculture and forestry industries and resolve the development challenges.

In Japan, Mitsumata is used as part of the raw material for banknotes since the Meiji era, but domestic production has been decreasing year by year. Kanpou's first involvement with Nepal was through its corporate social responsibility activity to donate wells, and in 1990, the company began conducting research on Mitsumata in Nepal, where the plant originated. With the aim of revitalizing villages in areas where Mitsumata grows wild, Kanpou started teaching cultivation and processing techniques, and replanting Mitsumata in areas cleared for forest conservation. It then established a local subsidiary and trained Nepali staff, through whom it continued providing technical assistance to contracted farmers.



Staff of Kanpou-Nepal giving work instructions to village women (Photo: Kanpou Inc.)

Mr. MATSUBARA Tadashi, the company's President and CEO who took over the Mitsumata business in Nepal in 2013, looks back on the earlier days of the project and says, "I will never forget the words of a village elder who said, 'Thanks to Mitsumata, children in our village are no longer trafficked due to poverty. I myself was able to raise my daughter to become a respectable person.' When I heard these words, I vowed that I would surely get this project off the ground and eliminate poverty."

While considering how to continue this business, Kanpou consulted the Embassy of Japan in Nepal, which then referred the company to a JICA project. In 2016, the company began the SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector to study its feasibility, and since 2019, it implements the "Pilot Project for Establishment of Dissemination Model of High-Quality Mitsumata (Argeli) Production in Nepal."

Talking about the advantage of utilizing JICA's public-private



Mr. Matsubara (on the left) holding a meeting with producers (Photo: Kanpou Inc.)

partnership support scheme, Mr. Matsubara says, "Poor landless farmers grow Mitsumata on state-owned land with permission from the government. Previously there were many obstacles to continuing their business, such as by having to apply for permission every time the government changed. However, after starting as a JICA project, the permit and approval process was expedited thanks to the network and trust that JICA has cultivated in Nepal. Moreover, we were able to expand the geographical coverage of our activities to regions far away from the capital. Currently, we produce approximately 150 tons of Mitsumata per year at approximately 30 production sites, which is approximately three times the amount produced 10 years ago." Mitsumata from Nepal is imported to Japan and becomes the raw material for banknotes manufactured by the National Printing Bureau.

This project creates employment opportunities and contributes to women's participation in society. Regarding the results of the project, Mr. Matsubara explains, "Mitsumata processing does not require large facilities or electric power and can also be easily carried out by women, so it can create jobs for the entire village, encouraging social participation of women. This project also provides employment opportunities to migrant workers who returned home from the capital due to the spread of COVID-19. In addition, it has led to the autonomous operation of the village, as the villagers began to utilize profits from the Mitsumata business for the village, such as for building a school."



Flowering Mitsumata shrub with the Himalayas in the background (Photo: Kanpou Inc.)

In order to create new jobs and further revitalize the agriculture and forestry industries in Nepal, Kanpou intends to make Mitsumata a specialty of Nepal and considers using the network cultivated through the Mitsumata business to develop new agricultural products. It is expected that this will further create employment for people living in the mountainous regions of Nepal and lead to poverty reduction.

Part V

1 Solidarity with Various Partners to Realize Co-Creation



## B. Support to Improve the Enabling Environment for NGOs

In response to the growing importance of activities by non-governmental actors and the use of private funding in international cooperation, MOFA carries out the following programs with the objective of further strengthening the organizational structures and project implementation capabilities of Japanese NGOs and developing their human resources.

### ■ NGO Consultant Scheme

Under this scheme, MOFA commissions highly experienced Japanese NGOs throughout Japan as “NGO Consultants” who are tasked to address inquiries and respond to requests for consultation from citizens and NGOs on such topics as international cooperation activities by NGOs, procedures to establish an NGO, organizational management and operation, and approaches for providing development education. In FY2022, MOFA commissioned 15 organizations that handled more than 10,000 questions and inquiries and provided 120 on-site services. <sup>8</sup>

### ■ NGO Internship Program/NGO Study Program

MOFA implements the NGO Internship Program and NGO Study Program in support of organizational development through human resources development. The NGO Internship Program is designed to train younger generations who can play a leading role in Japanese NGOs in international cooperation in the future. A total of seven interns were accepted by NGOs through this program in FY2022.

Under the NGO Study Program, mid-career staff from Japanese NGOs in international cooperation undergo domestic and overseas training. Upon completion of training, they are expected to share their experience and learning widely within their organization and with other NGOs, and contribute to enhancing the capacity of Japanese NGOs as a whole. In FY2022, eight people received training under this program.

### ■ NGO Study Group

MOFA supports research activities conducted by multiple NGOs to improve their own project implementation capacity and expertise. The NGO Study Group hosted by MOFA aims to strengthen the organization and capacity of NGOs. Under specific themes facing the NGO community, each study group is organized to undertake a range of activities, including joint studies and research, seminars, workshops, symposiums, etc., and produce reports and make specific recommendations for performance improvement. In FY2022, the NGO Study Group focused on two themes: (i) “Issues and Practice Toward Gender Mainstreaming in International Cooperation,” and (ii) “Redesigning Fund Raising Methods and Financial Standing of Japanese NGOs.” The reports and outputs of these activities are available on the MOFA website <sup>9</sup> (in Japanese only).

## C. Dialogue with NGOs (NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings and NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting)

In FY2022, the Plenary of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting\* was held in November. The meeting of a subcommittee, namely the “Partnership Promotion Committee,” took place in July and December 2022 and March 2023, and the “ODA Policy Council” met in July and November 2022 and March 2023. The number of these meetings was the same as before the spread of COVID-19. An extraordinary general meeting on the revision of the Development Cooperation Charter was also organized in September 2022, featuring lively exchanges of views (see the MOFA website <sup>10</sup> for more information on the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

JICA holds the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting to engage in dialogue and collaboration with NGOs. Two meetings took place online in FY2022, with participation of 40 organizations in the first meeting and 25 organizations in the second meeting (see the JICA website <sup>11</sup> for more information on the NGO-JICA Dialogue Meeting, meeting minutes, and other details).

<sup>8</sup> Consultation and lecture services at events related to international cooperation, provided in cooperation with local governments and partner organizations.

<sup>9</sup> The reports of NGO Study Group [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda\\_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/houkokusho/kenkyukai.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>10</sup> NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda\\_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shimin/oda_ngo/taiwa/kyougikai.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>11</sup> Regular meetings with NGOs [https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo\\_meeting/index.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/partner/ngo_meeting/index.html) (in Japanese only)



## Glossary

### Japan Platform (JPF)

An emergency humanitarian aid organization established in 2000 in partnership with NGOs, the government, and the business community. JPF aims to support and coordinate with Japanese NGOs to ensure their rapid and effective emergency humanitarian aid activities in the event of a large-scale natural disaster or conflict that causes a vast number of refugees or displaced persons, etc. JPF utilizes ODA funds from the Government of Japan, as well as donations from companies and citizens to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, including the distribution of food/non-food items, and support to rebuild lives, in the situation of a large-scale natural disaster or a vast number of refugees or displaced persons fleeing from conflicts.

### NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting

In order to promote a stronger partnership and dialogue between NGOs and MOFA, the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meeting was launched in FY1996 for sharing information on ODA and regularly exchanging opinions on measures for improving partnerships with NGOs. It comprises the Plenary and two subcommittees: the “ODA Policy Council” and the “Partnership Promotion Committee.”

## (4) Collaboration with Local Governments, etc.

There is an increasing need to respond to problems arising from urbanization as a result of rapid economic development in developing countries, not only in metropolitan areas but also in regional cities, concerning water, energy, waste disposal, urban transportation, and anti-pollution, among others. Against this backdrop, Japanese local governments with a track record of various public service experiences can play a most valuable role in international development efforts and respond to the various needs of developing countries in a highly tailored manner. The involvement of Japanese local governments will also contribute to the development of future professionals in international cooperation and talents of global services. For this reason, the Government of Japan promotes the participation of Japanese local governments in ODA projects. Moreover, the local governments are proactively committed to scaling up their Japanese initiatives overseas, including on behalf of businesses in their localities, in order to revitalize their economy and to support their internationalization (see the MOFA website <sup>12</sup> “support for overseas cooperation of local public entities through ODA,” and “Stories from the Field” on page 138 for specific examples).

In addition, 15 JICA offices across Japan function as a “nexus between Japanese local communities and developing countries” by providing information on international cooperation to various local actors, such as citizens, NGOs, local governments, and the private sector, and undertake a variety of projects based on the strengths of those localities.

## (5) Partnership with Universities and Research Institutions, etc.

The Government of Japan strives to collaborate with universities on a broad range of intellectual aspects of the overall socio-economic development of developing countries, namely theorizing and transmitting unique

Japanese philosophies of development cooperation, practicing such development cooperation philosophies, teaching the lessons learned from the development field to the Japanese community, and developing human resources for international cooperation. In addition, as part of these efforts, the Government of Japan facilitates “International brain circulation” through exchanges and joint research of students and researchers from developing countries and Japan. In fact, the Government of Japan successfully promotes projects under technical cooperation, yen loans, the JICA Partnership Program (JPP), and so forth in collaboration with various universities.

To give an example, for the purpose of training highly competent professionals who can play a central role in the socio-economic development of their home countries, the Government of Japan accepts junior government officers from developing countries as international students at Japanese universities through the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS). To date, the number of universities accepting students has reached a cumulative total of 41. In FY2022, Japan accepted more than 300 students from 19 countries, and the cumulative number of JDS Fellows enrolled in the master’s or doctoral programs in Japan has exceeded 5,700 (see “Stories from the Field” on page 140 for networking among JDS Fellows and their activities in Mongolia). Furthermore, Japan supports the socio-economic development of advanced engineering professionals from ASEAN countries whose industrial structures and business activities continue to advance, through strengthening the network among Japanese and ASEAN-based universities, promoting collaboration between universities and the industrial sector, and supporting joint research within the region and in Japan under the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) Project\* as well as with the dispatch of experts.

In addition, MOFA and JICA implement the “Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable

<sup>12</sup> Support for overseas cooperation of local public entities through ODA [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/page23\\_000707.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/page23_000707.html) (in Japanese only)

## Contributing to Safe Water Supply in Cambodia with Kitakyushu City's Know-How on "Water Distribution Block Technology"



Public nomination

The civil war of Cambodia, which continued until the signing of the Peace Agreements in 1991, left its water supply facilities in ruins. In addition to water leakage due to deterioration, illegal connections of water pipes were also frequent, pushing the non-revenue water (NRW) rate, which indicates the percentage of unbilled fees due to water leakage and water theft, up to 70% in 1993. In response to a request from the Government of Cambodia, Japan began rebuilding water infrastructure in 1993 in collaboration with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and other partners. In 1999, a Kitakyushu City official was dispatched as an individual expert, which led to the launch of a JICA technical cooperation project. Kitakyushu City personnel were dispatched to provide technical guidance on water leakage prevention, passing on the knowledge they had cultivated in water administration. Through this cooperation, Phnom Penh's NRW rate improved to 8%, on par with developed countries. As of 2006, on completion of the "Project on Capacity Building for Urban Water Supply System in Cambodia (Phase 1)", water services had dramatically improved and tap water had reached a potable level. This success became hailed as the "Miracle of Phnom Penh."

Mr. SASADA Kazuhiro, Deputy Director of the International Project Division of the Water and Sewer Bureau, Kitakyushu City, describes the effort at the time: "The know-how of 'water distribution block technology,' implemented in the water supply service in Kitakyushu City, brought great results in reducing the NRW rate in Cambodia. This method consists of dividing a water distribution area into several blocks and then investigating the water leakage rate in each block to identify the cause, thereby reducing water leakage and water theft. This led to improving the revenue of the water supply business of the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority, which enabled them to implement measures to improve water quality, leading to the 'miracle.'"

Meanwhile, water services in regional cities other than Phnom Penh were inadequate, and there was an urgent



Mr. Sasada explaining the situation of water administration in Cambodia to water administration officials at a local seminar (Photo: Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau)

need to improve facilities and management capacity. For this reason, Japan provided grant aid to help build local water treatment plants, and implemented technical cooperation projects in the second phase from 2007 and the third phase from 2012. Accordingly, to support the sustainable water supply business in local cities in Cambodia, Kitakyushu City continued to dispatch its personnel as cooperation experts and provide technical cooperation to enhance the operation and maintenance capacities of water supply facilities at eight provincial waterworks, including Siem Reap Province. Looking back on Kitakyushu City's long-standing support, Mr. Sasada says, "At the beginning of the project, waterworks in seven of the eight cities were in a severe financial situation, with single fiscal years ending in deficit. By the end of the third phase in 2017, however, all eight cities had become able to end single fiscal years in surpluses. In other words, we were able to establish the foundation for a viable water supply business in a short period. Kitakyushu City also participated in the 'Project for Strengthening Administrative Capacity of Urban Water Supply in Cambodia' implemented by JICA from 2018 to March 2023. In this project, with the aim of strengthening the governance of water administration, we provided cooperation to the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, which has jurisdiction over the water sector, in the strengthening of organizations, legal development, licensing services, management of water supply operators, and human resources development."

In Cambodia, many private water supply operators operate mainly in densely populated areas where business is relatively easy to become viable. However, the country lacks in showing a clear view or policy to ensure that all citizens receive safe and affordable water services. In response to this, a three-year project was launched in May 2023 to help formulate a development plan for urban water supply for the water sector across Cambodia. "Local people told me that thanks to Kitakyushu City the water quality was improved. It makes me proud to be a member of the water administration," says Mr. Sasada with a smile. Cooperation from Kitakyushu City in water supply services is expected to continue.



Kitakyushu City officials providing guidance to Cambodian waterworks officials on the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant in Kampot Province built with the cooperation of Japan (Photo: Kitakyushu City Water and Sewer Bureau)



Development (SATREPS) program,”<sup>13</sup> in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED). Under the SATREPS program, international joint studies between universities and research institutions in Japan and those in developing countries are being conducted (see Part III, Section 1 (2) on page 37 for the results, and “Master Techniques from Japan to the World” on page 95 for assistance in Malaysia).

JICA collaborates with Japanese universities to implement the “JICA Development Studies Program,” which provides master’s and doctoral students from developing countries with an opportunity to learn about the development history of Japan. In order to scale similar

efforts overseas, JICA also implements the “JICA Chair” program to support the establishment of “Japanese Studies” courses at top universities in developing countries. Additionally, working with the Open University of Japan, JICA has launched online lecture initiatives, such as the production of the “Japanese Modernization Lecture Series” program, which systematically presents the history of Japanese modernization and the importance of international cooperation.

These partnerships with universities contribute to improving the capacity of academics in developing countries to provide solutions to development issues and to promoting international understanding toward Japan. They also support the internationalization of Japanese universities by providing opportunities for international scholars’ training and research activities.



## Glossary

### ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net)

Established in 2001 as a university network comprising 19 top-ranking engineering universities in 10 ASEAN member countries and 11 partner universities from Japan (currently 26 ASEAN countries’ and 18 Japanese universities). The Government of Japan has supported this network from its planning phase, and through JICA, has implemented initiatives related to degree acquisition, joint education and research, collaboration between industry and academia, and network development in support of training highly qualified professionals in the engineering sector.

## (6) Collaboration with People with a Deep Interest in and Understanding of Japan, Japanese Descendants (Nikkei) Living Abroad, and Others

Foreign nationals who have participated in training programs or studied in Japan through Japan’s ODA are important human assets with an understanding of Japanese culture and values. There are also cases where these people form alumni associations and engage in activities to promote exchanges with and understanding of Japan after returning to their home countries. Through our overseas diplomatic missions, MOFA facilitates collaboration with these people, who have a deep interest in and understanding of Japan.

In ASEAN countries, after returning to their home countries, participants of JICA’s Training Programme for Youth Leaders (the former Youth Invitation Program) have established alumni associations in their own countries. In 1988, the alumni associations in each ASEAN country were integrated into the newly launched “ASEAN-Japan Friendships Association for the 21st Century (AJAFA-21).” Since then, AJAFA-21 has continued to conduct exchange activities within the ASEAN region and with Japan. In December 2023, more than 100 members from eight ASEAN countries visited Japan to commemorate the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, expanding exchanges and confirming

their continuous commitment to contributing to Japan-ASEAN cooperation through alumni activities.

Through the ABE Initiative,<sup>14</sup> Japan strives to increase follow-up support for participants after they complete the program. Using online methods and other means, Japan provides networking opportunities with Japanese company representatives and information to participants who wish to work for Japanese companies. To strengthen networking among ABE Initiative participants, a social media network was launched in April 2020. As of November 2023, the network had approximately 1,070 people, including current participants and graduates, as well as Japanese corporate representatives and former



Interaction between Japanese company representatives and ABE Initiative graduates at a reporting session after returning to their country (Photo: JICA)

<sup>13</sup> See the glossary on page 38.

<sup>14</sup> See the glossary on page 145.

## Networking among JDS Alumni Returned from Japan – Fostering Young Mongolian Government Officials into Leaders who will Contribute to Solving Development Challenges –

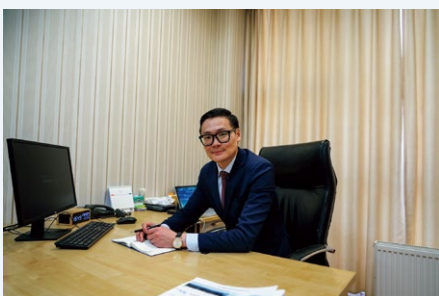
Mongolia, known as a friendly country with a strong affinity for Japan, is blessed with abundant underground resources. However, for medium- to long-term economic growth, the challenge it faces is channeling these resources into economic and further industrial development. For this reason, emphasis is placed on improving the administrative capacity of its governmental bodies for the development of an appropriate institutional structure, as well as for the formulation and implementation of sound financial plans, by training young government officials responsible for the future of the country.



A general meeting of the JDS Alumni Association held in Mongolia with the participation of faculty from the accepting Japanese universities (Photo: JICE)

Japan cooperates with Mongolia, through the grant aid “Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS),” to help young government officials study at graduate schools in Japan, aiming at fostering future policy makers of Mongolia. Since the country became a JDS recipient country in 2001, more than 400 young government officials have studied in Japan, 375 of whom have already obtained master’s or doctoral degrees. After returning to Mongolia, they are making great success in various fields, such as the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Mongolia, and other central government agencies.

Mr. B. Ganzorig studied at Saitama University for two years from 2017 under the JDS project. After returning to Mongolia, he returned to his previous position at the Ministry of Finance and currently serves as Head of the Development Financing Division, Development Financing and Public Investment Department. Mr. Ganzorig says that the experience of studying in Japan helped advance his career, explaining, “In recognition of my master’s degree in economics obtained in Japan, I was promoted to the Head of the Development Financing Division, Development Financing and Public Investment Department, and became involved in policy finance.” He also explains the positive outcomes of his study in Japan, saying, “When making policy investments, I take what I learned in Japan as a guideline. That is to say, I have become



Mr. Ganzorig serving as Head of the Development Financing Division, Development Financing and Public Investment Department, Ministry of Finance



Ms. Naranchimeg, Head of the Payments and Settlements Division, Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance

capable of appropriately allocating the necessary funds for priority policies, keeping in mind that the profits from Mongolia’s mineral resources should contribute to national development.”

Similar to Mr. Ganzorig, Ms. L. Naranchimeg also took part in the JDS project from the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia and obtained her master’s degree in economics from Saitama University in 2020. Currently, she is Head of the Payments and Settlements Division, Treasury Department. Ms. Naranchimeg describes the outcomes of her study in Japan through the JDS and says, “What I learned in Japan is the importance of conducting analysis and planning in advance of starting a project. After returning to Mongolia, I became involved in the introduction of a government-led online payment system in response to the demand that increased with the rise of remote work amid the spread of COVID-19. We steadily advanced our projects with foresight and were able to provide services to a wide range of people across the country. I am happy to hear that the work style I learned in Japan serves as a role model for my colleagues and subordinates.”

As for other outcomes, besides academic accomplishments, Ms. Naranchimeg says, “The connections I made with JDS alumni are also significant outcomes that have helped me in my work since returning home.” Furthermore, Mr. Ganzorig explains, “I leverage my experience of studying in Japan to serve as a Mongolian counterpart for Japanese cooperation projects. I also serve as a liaison to the Embassy of Japan in Mongolia and to the JICA Mongolia Office.” In Mongolia, the “JDS Alumni Association Mongolia” has been established, through which a network is built among graduates returned from Japan, Japanese academic institutions, the Embassy of Japan, and JICA. Its members strengthen the bonds among alumni, who are back in Mongolia and work actively at Mongolian governmental bodies, through various opportunities such as follow-up seminars on fellows’ return home and farewell parties for new fellows departing to Japan. They also talk about using the knowledge and experience they cultivated in Japan to benefit Mongolia and the world.

In 2023, seven JDS alumni, including Mr. Ganzorig and Ms. Naranchimeg, published their co-authored book entitled “Challenges in Fiscal and Monetary Policies in Mongolia” with the cooperation of their academic advisers at Saitama University. This book presents analysis and economic models useful for policy making in Mongolia. It includes an analysis of the current state of Mongolia’s economy, suffering from the so-called “Dutch disease” in which the export of natural resources leads to a decline in the domestic manufacturing industry, its impact on financial management, and measures to enhance the governance capacity of sovereign wealth funds.

It is expected that Mongolia’s qualified young government officials who have gained knowledge and experience in Japan will demonstrate leadership and promote economic development in Mongolia, while promoting friendship and understanding with Japan.

Japan Overseas Volunteers (JOCVs), disseminating business information related to Japanese companies in Africa and facilitating mutual exchange. The ABE Initiative also offers networking opportunities for all graduates to connect with each other. Furthermore, a group of volunteer participants established an organization called Kakehashi Africa, which aims to become a business partner with Japanese companies. While maintaining a network across Africa, the organization is engaged in activities such as conducting business surveys, providing business information, and matching the needs of Japanese companies and local resources. It has also collaborated with JICA, including on entrepreneurship training (see “Stories from the Field” on pages 36 and 140 for the activities of former international students who have studied in Japan).

In many cases, Japanese descendants (Nikkei people) form Nikkei communities in the countries of their residence and play a role as the foundation of strong ties between Japan and those countries. Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, which account

for approximately 60% of the world's Nikkei people, support regional development and contribute greatly to the economic growth of their countries through the transfer of technology, etc., while also playing an important role as a “bridge” and “partner” with Japan. JICA implements the Training for Nikkei communities technical cooperation and the Program for Developing Leaders in Nikkei Communities technical cooperation for professionals who assume a leading role in cooperation between Nikkei communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan. In FY2022, 152 Nikkei people from nine Latin American and the Caribbean countries participated in the Training for Nikkei communities. In addition, JICA dispatches JOCVs to Nikkei communities who are motivated to apply their skills and experience to the communities in Latin America and the Caribbean. In FY2022, 29 volunteers were sent to five countries in support of development in the region while living and working alongside Nikkei people and members of Nikkei communities.

## Featured Project



### Nurturing Young Entrepreneurs in “Nikkei” Communities

Seminar to Foster Young Entrepreneurs in Nikkei Communities across Latin America

(March 2023)

Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, and Mexico



Many Japanese immigrants and their descendants (Nikkei) live in Latin America and the Caribbean, where they have formed and developed their colonies and communities. On the other hand, many young Nikkei people from those colonies do not find the local industry centering on agriculture attractive, which leads them to move to urban areas or migrate to other countries to find work. The outflow of young Nikkei people and the resulting aging of Nikkei communities pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of these Nikkei communities.

To address this challenge, the JICA Bolivia Office held a seminar in March 2023 in the Department of Santa Cruz, where Nikkei colonies have been settled, with the aim of nurturing young entrepreneurs from Nikkei communities in Latin America. The seminar was attended by a total of 41 participants, mostly Nikkei people between the ages of 18 and 52, not only from Bolivia, but also from Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, and Peru. Group works



Deepening discussions between members from different countries (Photo: JICA)



Participants from Nikkei communities across Latin America, who discussed business ideas over three days (Photo: JICA)

were conducted aiming at generating business ideas. The JICA Bolivia Office had previously implemented “Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan)\*1 in Bolivia” from September 2022 to January 2023 to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among young Nikkei people so as to revitalize Nikkei communities in Bolivia. The outcome of said project led to the realization of this multinational seminar, expanding the target area to other Nikkei communities throughout Latin America.

The seminar contributed not only to the development of Nikkei entrepreneurs but also to the formation of human networks across national borders among young Nikkei people, who are expected to lead the future Nikkei communities.

\*1 See 23 on page 144.



## (1) Strengthening Alignment of Policy Formulation and Project Implementation

### A. Policy Framework on Development Cooperation

Under the Development Cooperation Charter, which sets out Japan's development cooperation principles, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) formulates the Country Assistance Policy<sup>15</sup> for each recipient country and the Sectoral Development Policy.<sup>16</sup>

The Country Assistance Policy identifies the priority areas and direction of Japan's development cooperation for a developing country, taking into account its political, economic, and social situations along with its development plans, development challenges, and other relevant factors. The Rolling Plan is developed in addition to the Country Assistance Policy as a compilation list of all ODA projects at various stages of implementation, organized by priority area of assistance, the development issue, and the cooperation program with the visualized implementation schedule, in order to increase correlation and forward planning of development cooperation.

Japan also formulates a Sectoral Development Policy in light of international efforts on development, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To implement Japan's development cooperation more effectively, Japan shares its medium-term priority areas and development cooperation policies with partner governments, while also strengthening policy consultations with them and promoting efforts to achieve mutual recognition and understanding.

### B. Implementation Architecture of Development Cooperation

In the implementation of development cooperation in accordance with the relevant policies, the government and implementing agencies work together to effectively utilize different modalities such as grant aid, technical cooperation, and loan aid. With a view to maximizing development impacts, Japan aims to implement development cooperation with the optimized combination of bilateral cooperation and multilateral cooperation through international organizations and NGOs and toward co-creation in partnership with various actors.

In order to strengthen the posture that benefits

project formulation, selection, and implementation, Japan holds the country-based ODA Task Force\* in each ODA-recipient country, comprised mainly of the Embassy of Japan and the JICA office, who have first-hand knowledge of local development needs and operational realities in consideration of the status of the bilateral relations and political, economic, and social situations. In addition, the ODA Task Force participates in the process of drafting the Country Assistance Policy and the Rolling Plan, formulating and shortlisting project candidates, strengthening collaborations with other donors, international organizations, Japanese companies, and NGOs with active local presence, and recommending and reviewing development cooperation modalities.

Japan also provides follow-up support after the project implementation period to ensure that each project is widely recognized and properly appreciated by the government and people of the recipient country long after its completion.

### C. Improving Management and Ensuring Accountability for ODA

From the perspective of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of development cooperation and ensuring accountability to the Japanese public, it is important to carry out proper evaluations and use the results of evaluations for better policies and projects. In order to improve management and fulfill the accountability for ODA, Japan has taken the following measures: (i) enhancing the PDCA cycle (policymaking and project formation (Plan), implementation (Do), evaluation (Check), improvement (Act)), (ii) strengthening program approaches, and (iii) reinforcing "visualization." With these measures, Japan has been striving to ensure strategic consistency in the PDCA cycle of its development cooperation.

The ongoing efforts toward the enhanced PDCA cycle include: (i) formulating Country Assistance Policies for all ODA recipient countries, (ii) convening the Development Project Accountability Committee, (iii) setting impact indicators for each project, and (iv) strengthening the evaluation mechanism.

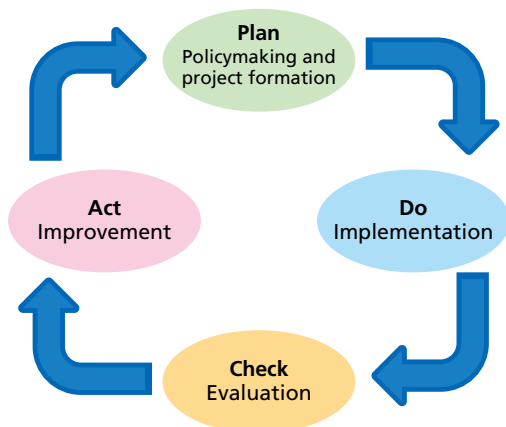
For more effective and efficient ODA operation, it is essential to strengthen the PDCA cycle not only at the project level but also at the policy level. To this end, MOFA carries out evaluations of economic cooperation policies in line with the "Government Policy Evaluations

<sup>15</sup> Country Assistance Policy and Rolling Plan for Respective Countries <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/assistance/country2.html>

<sup>16</sup> Sectoral Development Policy <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/sector/index.html>

Act (GPEA).<sup>17</sup> It commissions evaluations to third parties in order to ensure objectivity and fairness. The recommendations and lessons learned from these evaluations are fed back to ODA policy for further improvements in ODA management.<sup>18</sup>

Chart V-2 PDCA Cycle



The ODA evaluations by third parties are implemented both from the “development viewpoints,” which concern whether ODA is contributing to the recipient country’s development, and from the “diplomatic viewpoints,” which determine what desired impacts ODA has on Japan’s national interests.

Evaluations from the “development viewpoints” are carried out against three evaluation criteria; how the ODA policies are aligned with Japan’s high-level policies, global priorities, and local needs of the recipient country (Relevance of Policies); how much impact ODA has delivered (Effectiveness of Results); and what processes have been taken to ensure ODA’s Relevance of Policies and Effectiveness of Results (Appropriateness of Processes). Evaluations from the “diplomatic viewpoints” are conducted against two criteria: how ODA is expected to contribute to Japan’s national interest (Diplomatic Importance) and how ODA has contributed to the realization of Japan’s national interest (Diplomatic Impact).

In addition, following the recommendations from the “Review of Japan’s ODA Evaluations from FY2015 to FY2021,” conducted in FY2022, MOFA strengthens ODA

evaluations in line with the priority policies, approaches, and implementation principles of the Development Cooperation Charter.

MOFA publishes the evaluation results on its website<sup>19</sup> to ensure accountability to the Japanese public while promoting public understanding and support for ODA through increasing transparency.

At the project level, JICA mainly carries out evaluation by modalities - grant aid, loan aid, and technical cooperation - as well as by the theme field. Having established a coherent evaluation mechanism for each modality, JICA conducts evaluations for each project ex-ante, mid-term, and ex-post. As for projects whose cost exceeds a certain threshold, JICA commissions third-party ex-post evaluations. JICA also invests in impact evaluations<sup>20</sup> in recognition of the importance of quantitatively examining projects.

MOFA and JICA conduct ODA evaluations primarily based on the Evaluation Criteria of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).<sup>21</sup>

## (2) Cooperation that Takes Advantage of Japan’s Strengths and Fine-Tuned System Design

The human resources, knowledge, high level of technical competency, and institutions that Japan has developed in the course of its democratic economic development while valuing its own traditions are assets for development cooperation. Japan builds on these strengths to engage in development cooperation.

### A. Investment in People

Since Japan began providing ODA in 1954, it has consistently emphasized “investment in people” to transfer its technologies and expertise through acceptance of trainees and dispatch of experts, and strove to develop human resources in a detailed manner. For the purpose of contributing to solving problems in developing countries, Japan has accepted from developing countries trainees in a wide range of fields, including public administration, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and manufacturing, energy, education, health, medicine,

<sup>17</sup> Other than at the policy level, ex-ante evaluations are conducted on loan aid projects in which the maximum amount of loan offered through an Exchange of Notes (E/N) is ¥15 billion or more and on grant aid projects in which the maximum amount of aid offered through an E/N is ¥1 billion or more. In addition, ex-post evaluations are conducted on “pending projects” and “incomplete projects.” (“Pending projects” are projects for which the loan agreement has not been signed or loan disbursement has not begun after five years have elapsed following the decision to implement the project, etc. “Incomplete projects” are projects for which loan disbursements have not been completed after 10 years have elapsed following the decision to implement the project, etc.)

<sup>18</sup> Since FY2017, in addition to policy-level ODA evaluations, grant aid projects in which the maximum amount of aid offered through an E/N is ¥1 billion or more are subject to third party evaluations while the project in which the aid amount falls between ¥200 million and ¥1 billion are internally evaluated. Japan strives to ensure that the results of these ex-post evaluations are utilized to improve the formation of ODA projects in the future.

<sup>19</sup> ODA Evaluation <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html>

<sup>20</sup> Evaluation method verifying the effects of development projects by using methods from statistics and econometrics.

<sup>21</sup> DAC evaluation criteria: In December 2019, coherence was added to the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability that had been in use since 1991.

transport, and communications. In FY2022, 8,227 new trainees from 135 countries and regions participated in training programs in Japan, while a total of 1,086 new trainees from four countries participated in the In-Country Training Program, which is conducted in developing countries and regions, and 1,624 new trainees from 103 countries and regions participated in the Third Country Training Program. Furthermore, through the Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts, Japan aims to develop the capacity of human resources in partner countries by providing quality policy recommendations and developing technologies tailored to local conditions, in pursuit of enhanced development outcomes. In FY2022, a total of 6,776 JICA experts, both new and those still involved from the previous fiscal year, were dispatched to 101 countries and regions.

As part of its efforts to train professionals in the industrial sector, Japan has provided support through the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth)\* and the Kaizen<sup>22</sup> Initiative, which are driven by industry-academia-government collaboration, as well as technical assistance in partnership with international organizations. As of December 2023, the ABE Initiative has offered training opportunities to over 6,700 youths from Africa. There are also good examples of ABE Initiative participants returning to their home countries after the completion of their training and applying the specialized knowledge and skills they acquired in Japan to find employment in Japanese companies, start their own businesses, and assume prominent positions in government agencies and universities in their home countries, while contributing to the development in their own countries and the overseas expansion of Japanese companies (see “Stories from the Field” on page 36 for the activities of the graduates of the ABE Initiative, and Part V, Section 1 (6) on page 139 for follow-ups after the training).

In addition, Japan has set up “Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan)”<sup>23</sup> to support startup ecosystems in developing countries. In collaboration with various stakeholders, the project provides assistance in identifying issues faced by entrepreneurs, making policy recommendations, developing corporate management capacity, strengthening cooperation among entrepreneurs,

pairing entrepreneurs in developing countries and Japanese companies, and promoting investment.

## B. Improvement of Japan's Loans

In order to promote “visible Japanese development cooperation” through utilizing and transferring Japan's advanced technologies and know-how to developing countries, the Government of Japan set up the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) under the yen loan scheme, which features, among other measures, the expanded scope of application and lower interest rates. In addition, to promote the steady formulation and implementation of infrastructure development projects through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in which Japanese companies participate, Japan introduced the Equity Back Finance (EBF) loan<sup>24</sup> and the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan,<sup>25</sup> while taking into account the improvement and application of measures by the recipient governments. In recent years, the ratio of orders received by Japanese companies has remained at around 60% to 70% in loan projects, which supports their overseas business expansion.

In addition, as follow-up measures for “Partnerships for Quality Infrastructure,”<sup>26</sup> the Government of Japan also makes efforts to improve its yen loans and Private-Sector Investment Finance (PSIF) in terms of speeding up Japan's yen loan procedures and creating new loan options. Furthermore, in preparing for public health emergencies, Japan recognizes the importance of securing funds to respond promptly when crises occur (R: Response), as well as ensuring prevention (P: Prevention) and preparedness (P: Preparedness). Therefore, Japan has developed two new financing packages: Results-Based Loans and Stand-by Credit for Urgent Response to Epidemics Loans. The former provides along with technical cooperation the funds necessary for borrowing countries to strengthen their prevention and preparedness efforts in accordance with the level of their progress. The latter provides loan facilities in advance in order to meet the financial needs of countries in the event of a pandemic or other public health emergency. Results-Based Loans can also be applied to sectors other than health, and are expected to contribute to making the yen loan system faster and more flexible.

<sup>22</sup> 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 the 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.”

<sup>23</sup> Launched by JICA in January 2020, it supports activities for entrepreneurs aimed at facilitating business innovation in developing countries.

<sup>24</sup> The Equity Back Finance (EBF) loan provides a yen loan for the developing country's share of the investment of the Special Purpose Company (SPC) that takes the lead in public projects in the developing country. It is restricted to PPP infrastructure projects, wherein the recipient country governments or their state-owned companies and others make the investment, and the Japanese companies participate as a business operating body.

<sup>25</sup> The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) loan is a yen loan for VGF that 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.

<sup>26</sup> Announced in 2015, the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure has the following pillars: expansion and acceleration of assistance through the full mobilization of Japan's economic cooperation tools, collaboration between Japan and ADB, expansion of the supply of funding for projects with relatively high-risk profiles by such means as enhancement of the function of JBIC, and promoting “Quality Infrastructure Investment” as an international standard.



### C. Co-Creation for Common Agenda Initiative

Japan's advanced technologies and science and technology are great strengths. At the same time, as emerging and developing countries make a technological catch-up and their needs are diversified, it is becoming important to implement development cooperation in a way that adds value and combines structural aspects of quality cooperation, including the provision of materials and equipment and the construction of facilities, with non-structural aspects, including involvement in operation and maintenance, institution building, and human resources development. Given this situation, Japan launched the Co-creation for common agenda initiative, which proactively proposes appealing menus that combine various schemes such as ODA and other official flows (OOF) to increase synergy and leverage Japan's strengths, while utilizing new social values and solutions that emerge from co-creation of dialogue and collaboration (see Part I, Section 1 on page 4 for the details on the Co-creation for common agenda initiative and the status of preparations for its implementation).

### D. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program)

Started in 1965, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Volunteer Program) has a long record of success over half a century. More than 55,300 volunteers have been dispatched to 99 developing countries and regions in total. This is truly a program of public participation and has contributed to development in these countries and regions, exemplifying the "visibility of Japanese development cooperation."

The JICA Volunteer Program is highly regarded both domestically and internationally. The program not only contributes to economic and social development in

developing countries and regions, but also promotes mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and these countries and regions through cultivating local people's affinity for Japan. Moreover, the program deserves attention for ex-volunteers applying their experiences and knowledge in Japanese society. For example, ex-volunteers who have obtained global perspectives through the program contribute to the revitalization of local communities in Japan and the business expansion of Japanese private companies to developing countries.

In order to promote these initiatives, the Government of Japan strives to make it easier for more people to join the program through supporting ex-volunteers in pursuing their careers, as well as disseminating information on how to participate in the program while retaining one's job (see "Featured Project" on page 146 for the activities of a JOCV who participated in the program while retaining their job and Part V, Section 1 (1) on page 129 for the scheme for dispatching company employees to developing countries as JOCVs (partnership program)).



A JOCV working as a midwife at a provincial hospital together with her counterpart in Cambodia (Photo: JICA)



## Glossary

### Country-Based ODA Task Force

The Task Force was established in FY2003 to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of Japan's development cooperation in developing countries. It has the Embassies of Japan and JICA as the main members, and local offices of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and other organizations as key members.

### African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)

This program aims to promote human resources development for business and industry in Africa, and to foster "navigators" who support the business activities of Japanese companies in Africa. Continuously implemented since its launch at TICAD V in 2013, the program has provided youth from Africa with opportunities to pursue master's degrees at Japanese universities, business programs such as internships at Japanese companies, Japanese language training, and business skills training.



## Aiming to Improve the Livelihood of Farmers!

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JICA Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program)\*1  
Category: Community Development

ONIMURA Yuya (Ezaki Glico Co., Ltd.) (April 2016 – March 2017)

Philippines



I was dispatched to a small island called Bohol Island in the Philippines as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV), and participated in a project that aimed to improve the livelihoods of farmers by promoting sales of agricultural products. Local farmers were engaged in the production and processing of agricultural products through agricultural cooperatives formed in each region, but they faced the issue that they did not know how to sell even though they knew how to produce. To solve this challenge, I worked with the Provincial Government of Bohol and agricultural cooperatives to open a direct sales store that would be run by the farmers themselves, aiming at increasing sales of their agricultural products.

I focused on providing some marketing measures to promote sales at the direct sales store, drawing on my experience in sales activities for retailers in Japan as a sales representative of Ezaki Glico Co., Ltd. Together with farmers, I devised and implemented easy-to-see product displays for customers visiting the store. I also led activities to attract more customers by distributing flyers and utilizing social media. In addition to in-store activities, I participated in exhibitions to introduce and sell their products and promote them to restaurants. As a result, we were able to increase both the number of customers and sales volume by more than 1.5 times compared to when the store was first opened. The direct sales store



The author discussing sales methods with members of the cooperative (Photo: ONIMURA Yuya)

is still in operation as of 2023.

After completing my term as a JOCV and returning to Ezaki Glico, I was assigned to the Philippines for six years as an expatriate of the company, where I was engaged in the establishment of its local subsidiary and expanding product sales. What I had acquired through the JOCV program was very useful for my work there. This included communication and management skills tailored to the country, and my understanding of the differences in preferences between the people of the Philippines and Japan shown in terms of what they value and what they find pleasure in.

Currently, I am back in Japan and in charge of export operations. I would like to continue to utilize my experience as a JOCV to connect the head office in Japan and local corporations overseas and contribute to expanding overseas sales of our products.



The author visiting a workshop that processes soap from carabao (water buffalo) milk (Photo: ONIMURA Yuya)

\*1 In 2016, the author was dispatched through the “Private-Sector Partnership Volunteer Program” in which a volunteer was dispatched by a company to participate in the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) (participation with incumbent occupation). Currently, this program is implemented as a “partnership program,” recruiting volunteers from various organizations such as private companies, universities, and local governments (see also Part V 1 (1) on page 129).

## 3

## Efforts to Ensure Appropriate Development Cooperation

Japan's development cooperation centered on ODA has contributed greatly not only to the development and growth of developing countries but also to the establishment of firm bonds of friendship and trusting relations between Japan and developing countries. At the same time, it has helped enhance Japan's standing in the international community and ensure the country's peace and prosperity. On the other hand, there have been cases of fraud committed in ODA projects, as well as failures in delivering expected outcomes and delays due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Government of Japan has made various efforts to learn lessons from these experiences for the future, such as improving evaluation systems, enhancing transparency, strengthening project management processes, and holding dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders, including recipient countries and civil society. The Government of Japan will continue to strive to engage in more effective and appropriate development cooperation.

Furthermore, in order to implement projects with due consideration for environmental and social aspects, JICA has established the Guidelines for Environmental and Social Consideration as a part of its efforts to ensure the appropriateness of its development cooperation.

### (1) Prevention of Fraudulent Practices

Fraudulent practices related to ODA projects not only hinder their appropriate and effective implementation, but also undermine trust in ODA that is funded by the taxes paid by the people of Japan. Therefore, fraudulent practices are absolutely unacceptable.

Based on lessons learned from past fraudulent practices, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and JICA have strengthened efforts to prevent those practices. These include enhancing monitoring systems (such as strengthening the function of the consultation desk for information related to fraud and corruption and expanding third-party checks), increasing penalties (such as extending the maximum period of suspension of eligibility for participation, increasing penalty charges for breaching contracts, and introducing a point-deduction system applicable to corporations that repeatedly commit serious fraudulent practices), and expanding the scope of suspension of eligibility for participation (such

as subjecting the groups of the suspended corporations and entities who have received business transfers from the suspended corporations to penalties).

Japan remains firmly committed to the prevention of fraudulent practices in ODA under the strong conviction that fraudulent practices related to ODA projects can never be tolerated.

### (2) Safety Measures for People Involved in International Cooperation Projects

Ensuring the safety of not only JICA-associated workers but also all actors involved in international cooperation projects, such as employees of companies and members of NGOs, is a prerequisite for the implementation of development cooperation centered on ODA projects, and MOFA and JICA work on taking sufficient security measures and establishing safety measures on a regular basis. In 2023, the security situation deteriorated in Sudan, Niger, Israel, Palestine and other countries, and MOFA and JICA, placing the highest priority on human lives, strove to ensure the safety of those involved in international cooperation projects, including the swift evacuation of the relevant actors from those countries, while accurately assessing the situation and cooperating with international organizations.

Following the terrorist attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in July 2016, the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects, in which the relevant ministries, agencies, government-related organizations, and experts participated, carried out its review and released the "Final Report."<sup>27</sup> MOFA and JICA strive to implement the safety measures<sup>28</sup> recommended in the report as well as to continue and enhance actions to ensure the effectiveness of safety measures for people involved in international cooperation projects. At the 2023 Council, which was made permanent after publication of the report, the relevant organizations and experts discussed circumstances, measures, efforts, and other matters related to the safety of those involved in international cooperation projects.

Furthermore, in the wake of the terrorist attack in Dhaka, the Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas Safety Measures Network<sup>29</sup> was established in 2016 to strengthen overseas safety measures for personnel associated with small and medium-sized enterprises

<sup>27</sup> Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects [https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22\\_000141.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22_000141.html)

<sup>28</sup> The following five points are proposed as new safety measures: (i) Strengthening the collection, analysis, and sharing of threat information, (ii) A code of conduct of project partners and NGOs, (iii) Physical and non-physical protective measures, and strengthening training and drills, (iv) Post-crisis response, and (v) Raising crisis management awareness and improving organizational structures of MOFA and JICA.

<sup>29</sup> Small and Medium Enterprise Overseas Safety Measures Network [https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/anzen\\_info/network.html](https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/anzen_info/network.html) (in Japanese only)



(SMEs), including those involved in international cooperation projects. With participants from ministries and agencies involved in the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, the Network holds a director-general-level plenary meeting about once a year. Most recently, the 7th plenary meeting took place in November 2022, attended by then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada. The meeting confirmed that organizations participating in the Network are actively engaged in awareness-raising activities and conduct proactive outreach to ensure that safety information reaches SMEs. The next meeting will be held in 2024.

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### **(3) Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation**

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In the recent years, there has been a growing international concern about sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) in humanitarian and development assistance. In October 2018, the United Kingdom held an international conference on SEAH, and major donors, including Japan, signed commitments to strengthen efforts to tackle it. Then, in July 2019, the OECD DAC adopted the “DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance.”

In light of these developments, MOFA conducts awareness-raising activities such as staff training. It also makes available the summaries of Japan’s basic

position and the DAC Recommendation on the MOFA website<sup>30</sup> to promote public understanding.

JICA raises awareness of the importance of SEAH prevention among a wide range of relevant parties involved in JICA projects through its website, which posts the president’s call for eliminating SEAH,<sup>31</sup> and through its employment regulations and ethics guidelines for JICA personnel that take into account SEAH prevention measures. In addition, it works to develop a consultation service as well as a response and monitoring system in case of an incident.

The elimination of SEAH was one of the agenda items at the Partnership Promotion Committee Meeting of the NGO-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regular Consultation Meetings, which were held in August 2021 and January 2022. In response, MOFA took measures such as incorporating SEAH prevention into the implementation guidelines for the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects since FY2022, and is continuously exploring potential measures in collaboration with relevant parties in Japan.

In December 2021, a joint letter to the UN Secretary-General, led by the United Kingdom and other like-minded countries, calling for further efforts by UN agencies to prevent and respond to SEAH, was issued and Japan joined in signing the letter. In 2023, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit under Japan’s Presidency, the G7 leaders confirmed its commitment to the elimination of SEAH in the G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué.

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<sup>30</sup> International Efforts to Address Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) in Development Cooperation [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/doukou/page24\\_000019.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/doukou/page24_000019.html) (in Japanese only)

<sup>31</sup> Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our\\_work/compliance/seah\\_eradication.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/compliance/seah_eradication.html)

## 4

## Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation, and Spreading Awareness

### (1) Enhancing Human Resources and Intellectual Foundations for Development Cooperation

To implement effective and strategic development cooperation, it is essential to secure and foster human resources with advanced knowledge of development challenges, as well as public understanding and support.

The Government of Japan has set a target of 1,000 Japanese working for UN-related agencies by 2025. To this end, in collaboration with universities and Japan offices of international organizations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) actively recruits, trains and supports Japanese nationals who can play active roles on the global stage.<sup>32</sup> As mentioned in the recommendations made by the Advisory Board for ODA, considering the development of global human resources, including those engaged in development cooperation, as an urgent issue, the government organizes seminars in and outside of Japan to explain the recruitment system of international organizations to students at secondary and higher educational institutions and professionals already employed. Recently, seminars mainly take place online, allowing incumbent Japanese staff of international organizations to remotely participate and share their experiences. Also, among other things, the government produces videos and holds seminars featuring senior officials and human resources experts from international organizations.

Moreover, the Government of Japan offers the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme, supporting Japanese professionals who pursue careers in international organizations, including those engaged in the area of international development (see page 50 for the activities of a Japanese staff member at an international organization, and “Stories from the Field” on page 150 for an introduction of a staff member of an international organization sponsored under the JPO Programme). MOFA has sent a cumulative total of over 1,900 JPOs, 64 of whom were sent in FY2022. In addition, MOFA implements the “Program for Global Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding and Development.”<sup>33</sup>

Through the Participatory Network for Expert Recruitment (PARTNER)<sup>34</sup> website, JICA centrally distributes information on international cooperation (such as recruitment and various training and seminar opportunities) undertaken by a wide range of actors such as ministries, agencies, JICA, NGOs, international organizations, companies, and universities. It also provides services such as human resources registration services and career counseling. Furthermore, JICA offers internships to graduate students and others who conduct research closely related to development cooperation and are willing to play an active role in this field in the future. JICA also engages competent professionals with extensive work experience in developing countries through the Senior Advisor System while administering the Associate Experts Program and the Capacity Enhancement Training in support of human resources development.

The JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development analyzes and synthesizes knowledge gained in the field of development cooperation, provides comprehensive feedback to JICA projects, and makes recommendations on the utilization of technology in the digital transformation field, thereby contributing to the realization of human security, the achievement of the SDGs, and the development of human resources.



Ms. KAWAI Natsuki, Nutrition Officer at UNICEF Senegal, a Japanese staff member working as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) since 2023, inspecting nutrition monitoring activities for local children in the area supported by UNICEF in the Louga region of northern Senegal (Photo: UNICEF Senegal)

<sup>32</sup> The website of the Recruitment Center for International Organizations (<https://www.mofa-irc.go.jp/>) (in Japanese only) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides information on vacancies in international organizations and other information related to careers in international organizations.

<sup>33</sup> See <sup>39</sup> on page 46.

<sup>34</sup> International Cooperation Career Information Website “PARTNER” <https://partner.jica.go.jp/> (in Japanese only)

## Voices of Japanese Personnel Working in International Organizations

– Aiming to Eradicate Hunger under Climate Change –

### The Path to International Cooperation that Started with Agricultural Science

“Hunger and satiety” – it was this contradiction that I awoke to during my junior high and high school years that made me want to pursue international cooperation. I can eat whatever I want and as much as I want, but there are people in the world who die of hunger. Faced with this reality, I felt that it was my mission to help those suffering from hunger, having grown up in a privileged environment.

In order to eat, we must produce food. For this reason, I studied agronomy (crop science) at university and graduate school. While studying at the graduate school, I had the opportunity to study abroad for a year at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, where I conducted research aimed at establishing rice cultivation techniques to adapt to droughts, which were becoming more severe due to the effects of climate change. With the cooperation of farmers, we assessed the technology in the actual rice fields of 30 farmers and had the opportunity to hear about their situation and challenges. What I realized during this experience was the obvious fact that meaningful agricultural technology would vary greatly depending on the environment and farmer's situation, and that neither technology dissemination nor international cooperation could be carried out uniformly. This field experience continues to be a great source of inspiration for me even today as I am involved in international cooperation.



The author (second from the right) conducting an interview with farmers in the Philippines while conducting research at IRRI

### Assigned to work at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme

When I was dispatched to FAO under the JPO Programme, I was in my third year after graduation, working on the implementation of JICA rural development projects at a consulting firm specializing in development cooperation. The main reason I applied for FAO as my first choice was that FAO's goal of achieving food security for all people was in line with the world I aspired to. Currently, I am in charge of designing and implementing climate investment projects for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors in the African region, leveraging funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF),\*1 of which Japan



With team members of the FAO (Author is second from the left in the front row)

is a major donor country. Weather-dependent agriculture and the many poor people who work in it are highly vulnerable to climate change. FAO works to support the agricultural activities of the most vulnerable communities, so that smallholder farmers can adapt to climate change, depending on the situation and priorities of each developing country. For example, FAO proposes projects that strengthen farmers' capacity and promote improved technologies, along with those projects that reduce deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable agricultural practices. In the design and implementation of climate investment projects, I spend exciting days working with colleagues of different nationalities and expertise not only from the headquarters but also from regional offices and many country offices.

### Aiming for a World Without Hunger While Cherishing My Own Life

“You cannot help others unless you are happy.” These are the words of my high school teacher that I still remember. I am currently assigned in Rome away from home, raising my child on my own. Thanks to my considerate supervisor and the support of those around me, even when there are difficult times, I am able to pursue the balance between my career and parenting, cherishing my family and myself.

Working at an international organization felt like a world that was out of my reach. However, as a result of my consistent efforts toward my goal of realizing the world I aspire to without missing any opportunities or connection with others, I am now where I am today. There are many ways to get involved in international cooperation, yet one of the fascinating aspects of working at the UN is using networks around the world and working with people with diverse backgrounds. Moving forward, I will continue to take steps toward eradicating hunger through supporting sustainable and resilient agriculture.

KATO Hoshie  
FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

\*1 See the glossary on page 67.



## (2) Efforts on Information Disclosure and the Promotion of Public Understanding and Support

In today's globalized world, Japan and developing countries are in a relationship of mutual support. Japan's ODA is of great significance as a critical effort by Japan to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world, including developing countries, and thereby defend Japan's national interests. Since ODA is funded from the public resources of the people of Japan, it is crucial to communicate the significance and efforts of development cooperation in an easily understandable manner, and to gain the recognition and support of a wide range of people in the country. It is also important that Japan's efforts be properly understood overseas in order to enhance friendly bilateral relationships and Japan's credibility in the international community. From these perspectives, ODA public relations are becoming increasingly important. Furthermore, to promote collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including private companies, local governments, and NGOs, it is essential to raise awareness and get many people involved.

The Government of Japan undertakes various efforts in public relations and information dissemination on ODA.

### A. Strengthening Public Relations and Information Dissemination

MOFA strives to conduct more effective ODA public relations, in cooperation with JICA. Domestically, MOFA focuses on publicizing its policies, using specific measures to reach young people and small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas that are not very familiar with ODA. The measures include posts on ODA websites, social media, and YouTube channels, email newsletters, videos, public relations events, and ODA Delivery Lecture series. For example, MOFA has created a TV drama under the theme of disaster risk reduction, featuring TV personality and author Mr. MATAYOSHI Naoki, and documentary videos titled "Japanese Women Delivering Hope in a World of Uncertainty," with freelance announcer Ms. NAKANO Minako as the presenter. These public relations activities are intended to communicate respective themes to the public in easily understandable and accessible manners by featuring well-known personalities. As a joint public relations effort not only by MOFA and JICA but also by other parties involved in development cooperation in Japan, MOFA, together with JICA and the Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), holds one of the largest events on international cooperation in Japan called "Global Festa JAPAN" every year around the time of International Cooperation Day (October 6) (see "ODA Topics" on page 152 for details on the specific

initiative). MOFA also puts efforts into public relations through International Cooperation Delivery Lectures, in which former JOCVs and JICA-related workers share their experiences as lecturers, and through ODA field visits for officials of local public entities, mobilizing JICA's 15 offices across Japan.

Overseas, Japan is committed to increasing the visibility of its cooperation. For example, Japanese embassies in developing countries, etc. have local media organizations report on ODA project sites, create public relations materials in local languages, and display Japan's national flag on equipment and facilities donated or built by Japan. Furthermore, ambassadors and Consuls-General of Japan themselves frequently post on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram to improve the understanding of local people about Japan's ODA.

In the White Paper on Development Cooperation published annually, MOFA aims to make its contents easy and interesting to read, by featuring many photos and stories from the field, and strives to ensure transparency on the implementation status of ODA with relevant statistical data. The White Paper is also published in both English and Japanese. As a result of these efforts, public response to various public relations tools has steadily increased, as shown by the number of participants in Global Festa JAPAN, the number of ODA Delivery Lectures, and the number of views of posted ODA-related videos. Japan is committed to continuously strengthening public relations even further.

### B. Information Disclosure on Implementation and Evaluation of ODA

The Government of Japan set up the "ODA Mieru-ka Site"<sup>35</sup> (a website designed to visualize ODA) on the JICA website, and makes available to the public ODA project summaries, results, ex-ante/ex-post evaluations, and other related information.

Likewise, the MOFA website features the results of policy- and program-level ODA evaluations<sup>36</sup> and other related information, in addition to new ODA projects and statistical materials, for more effective implementation and the promotion of public understanding and support for ODA.

### C. Promotion of Development Education

MOFA holds the "ODA Delivery Lecture" series, in which MOFA officials provide explanations on international cooperation, including ODA, at educational institutions, NGOs, and other organizations in Japan. Over the past eight years, a total of 224 ODA Delivery Lectures have been organized with the involvement of approximately 24,000 participants, mainly students. JICA also promotes cooperation with ex-JOCVs and local boards of education, and holds International Cooperation Delivery

<sup>35</sup> ODA Mieru-ka Site <https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/> (in Japanese only)

<sup>36</sup> ODA evaluations <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/evaluation/index.html>

## ODA Public Relations

## – In Order to Make ODA Feel Closer and More Familiar –

## ● Information Dissemination about Development Cooperation

According to a public opinion survey\*1 conducted by Japan's Cabinet Office in 2022, 84% of respondents answered that in development cooperation in the future "Japan should more actively promote development cooperation" or "The current level of development cooperation is appropriate," indicating a positive evaluation for development cooperation. This positive public opinion in Japan can be attributed to the growing awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has also been brought about, amid the compound crises the international community faces, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, by the broader understanding of the need for all countries to cooperate and help each other in addressing global issues such as disasters and infectious diseases, of the importance of development cooperation for ensuring a stable supply of energy resources and for increasing trust in Japan in the international community, and of the importance of development cooperation as a means for strategically advancing Japan's foreign policy.

This column introduces MOFA's various initiatives for information dissemination and public policy communication on the significance of Japan's development cooperation.

## ● Revision of the Development Cooperation Charter and Dissemination of the Significance of ODA

In June 2023, the Development Cooperation Charter was revised for the first time in eight years, against the backdrop of major changes in the situation since its formulation in 2015. In line with this, from the perspective of disseminating the significance and achievements of ODA to a wide range of people, MOFA prepared new materials that focused on the benefits of ODA to Japan and posted them on the ministry's ODA website as the "Significance of Japan's Development Cooperation."\*2 MOFA also prepared a series of good examples of ODA that have also benefitted Japan under the following themes:\*3 "Connections through the ocean," "Support for Japanese companies' overseas expansion," and "Strengthening trust in Japan from the international community through ODA and its benefits for Japan's national interests." They were delivered through the ODA email newsletter in three installments.

From October to December, Mr. Kusakabe, Ambassador for Civil Society, from the International Cooperation Bureau, MOFA, appeared in a public relations program of the Japan Platform



(Japanese only)

Mr. Kusakabe, Ambassador for Civil Society, from MOFA (on the right) appearing in a talk show with current university students as part of information dissemination efforts for the younger generations (Photo: JPF)

(JPF)\*4 on YouTube, an online video sharing service, to disseminate information targeting the younger generations. He talked about the significance and initiatives of Japan's development cooperation in a talk show with current university students (11 episodes).\*5

## ● TV Dramas/Documentaries

MOFA also works on producing public relations contents that make use of high-profile performers in order to deliver its message to a broader range of the public.

One of the initiatives is the production of a TV drama series, "The First Step" with the cooperation of Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd. The series is navigated by TV personality and author Mr. MATAYOSHI Naoki and is set at MOFA's International Cooperation Bureau, as well as at international cooperation sites. In 2023, MOFA produced its second episode "First Step 2: Sekai wo Tsunagu Yuuki no Kotoba"\*6 that depicts the growth of the characters under the theme of disaster risk reduction cooperation utilizing Japan's experience and knowledge acquired through repeated natural disasters. In this production, the concept of "Build Back Better," which was proposed by Japan at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai City in 2015 and became a universal term in the field of disaster risk reduction, is used as a keyword. In 2022, MOFA produced the first episode "The First Step: Sekai wo Tsunagu Ainoshirushi,"\*7 which transmits stories of parent-child affections and the growth of characters, revolving around the Maternal and Child Health Handbook, Japan's initiative introduced to the world through ODA. Both episodes are being broadcast and transmitted.

In addition, amid the occurrence of events around the world that shake the world order, including Russia's aggression against Ukraine, MOFA produced documentary videos titled "Japanese



A scene in which the main character YOSHIZAWA Mizuki (on the right) hands the Maternal and Child Health Handbook to Lien in the first TV drama "First Step: Sekai wo Tsunagu Ainoshirushi" (Japanese only)



The second episode of the TV drama series "The First Step 2: Sekai wo Tsunagu Yuuki no Kotoba" (Japanese only), set in MOFA's International Cooperation Bureau and showing scenes of actual international cooperation

Women Delivering Hope in a World of Uncertainty,”<sup>\*8</sup> narrated by freelance newscaster Ms. NAKANO Minako. With the diplomatically important “Women, Peace and Security (WPS)” agenda in mind, those videos focus dynamically on women on various topics. In the field of NGOs, the video features conflict prevention initiatives in countries in civil war or other crises, such as South Sudan. As for the efforts of government agencies, it focuses on the JICA Japan Disaster Relief Team, which utilizes the international standard medical record Minimum Data Set (MDS), devised in the Philippines and developed in Japan, in such areas as supporting displaced Ukrainians in Moldova. Regarding the field of international organizations, humanitarian aid efforts for women and the poor in Afghanistan are featured.



The documentary video “Japanese Women Delivering Hope in a World of Uncertainty”

#### ● Global Festa JAPAN 2023

In 2023, the 32nd international cooperation event “Global Festa JAPAN 2023” was held on September 30 and October 1, with approximately 39,000 participants, which was more than the previous year. With the theme “International Cooperation to Build the World – The More Friends the Better!,” the number of participating organizations was increased by about 30 from the previous year, in the hope of increasing the number of people who would participate in international cooperation to create a better world. More than 130 organizations involved in international cooperation, including NGOs, international organizations, companies, universities, and foreign embassies in Tokyo, exhibited and reported their activities, sold goods, and held stage programs with various guests and hands-on workshops.

At Global Festa, MOFA carried out stage programs, including the opening ceremony, with the theme of utilizing ODA for overseas expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises that do not usually have much contact with ODA. It was followed by panel discussions featuring social entrepreneurs and people involved in startups on the theme of young people’s challenges to address social issues, and the production announcement of documentary videos entitled “Japanese Women Delivering Hope in a World of Uncertainty.” MOFA also held an award presentation ceremony



A panel discussion with the theme “Let’s talk with young people about ODA! Young people’s challenge to solve social issues,” a stage program at Global Festa JAPAN 2023

for its photo contest, which has become customary.<sup>\*9</sup> This year’s contest, with the theme of “Building the future with friends,” received many entries that convey the feeling of “love, friendship, and growth.” The award-winning works were selected from a record 422 entries, focusing on heartwarming works such as family love, friendship, and natural scenery that we want to preserve for the future. Other

programs included a special lecture by Mr. IKEGAMI Akira and Ms. MASUDA Yuriya entitled “Plain Explanation of ODA found in the international community!” For the sub-stage programs, an international organization career seminar was held by MOFA’s Recruitment Center for International Organizations, followed by activity reports from NGOs working on international cooperation, attended by MOFA officials from the Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Division of the International Cooperation Bureau and staff members from NGOs. The results are available in the event report<sup>\*10</sup> on the ODA website.



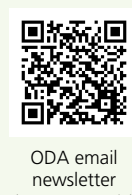
A view of the Lobby Gallery, where exhibits of foreign embassies stationed in Japan, international organizations, and other participants were held. MOFA also had a booth to provide an easy-to-understand explanation of how Japan’s ODA contributes to the world.

#### ● ODA Email Newsletter, ODA Public Relations X (formerly Twitter)

MOFA publishes an ODA email newsletter once a month, the content of which is also available on the ministry’s website. In addition, MOFA disseminates information about ODA on the social media X (formerly Twitter). As of December 2023, the number of email newsletter subscribers is approximately 20,000, and the number of followers on X is over 12,000.



MOFA’s ODA X account (Japanese only)



ODA email newsletter (Japanese only)

- \*1 The FY2022 Public Opinion Survey on Diplomacy took place from October to November 2022. The Cabinet Office entrusted it to a survey organization, which implemented a mail survey of 3,000 Japanese nationals aged 18 and over across Japan (Cabinet Office Public Opinion Survey: <https://survey.gov-online.go.jp/r04/r04-gaiko/index.html> (in Japanese only)).
- \*2 Significance of Japan’s Development Cooperation [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/oda/page24\\_000194.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/about/oda/page24_000194.html) (in Japanese only)
- \*3 ODA email newsletter No. 465–No. 467, ODA that enriches the world and Japan (Cases 1 to 3 regarding benefits to Japan) <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/mail/bn.html> (in Japanese only)
- \*4 See the glossary on page 137.
- \*5 JPF public relations program, MOFA vs. Current university students. No. 38–No. 48 <https://www.youtube.com/@milakarma> (in Japanese only)
- \*6 The First Step 2: Sekai wo Tsunagu Yuuki no Kotoba [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22\\_001633.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22_001633.html) (in Japanese only)
- \*7 The First Step: Sekai wo Tsunagu Ainoshirushi [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22\\_001443.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/sanka/page22_001443.html) (in Japanese only)
- \*8 Japanese Women Delivering Hope in a World of Uncertainty [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pgx1\\_EPVo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pgx1_EPVo)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpzl-gQ\\_RkY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpzl-gQ_RkY)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvuO3xbNRZs>
- \*9 Report on the MOFA Photo Contest “Building the future with friends” [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page23\\_001395.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page23_001395.html) (in Japanese only)  
See also Special Photograph Collection (1) on page viii for the photographs submitted to the contest.
- \*10 Global Festa JAPAN 2023 event report [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page22\\_001739.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/press/event/page22_001739.html) (in Japanese only)



Lectures conducted by JICA trainees staying in Japan. In FY2022, approximately 1,700 lectures were held and attended by approximately 150,000 participants. Other efforts to promote understanding and participation in international cooperation include “Visit JICA,” in which students can visit JICA offices in Japan, and the “JICA Essay Contest on International Cooperation for Junior and Senior High School Students.” JICA also manages the exhibition facility “JICA Global Plaza.”



ODA Delivery Lecture given by a MOFA official

#### **D. Promotion of Discussion and Dialogue**

The Government of Japan holds information sessions for NGOs, companies, business associations, and others on how to utilize ODA in respective activities. In addition, the government organizes public lectures on international trends and Japan's efforts in international cooperation, providing opportunities for dialogue with the public interested in diplomacy and ODA.



# Reference

## Reference Statistics

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# 1 FY2023 ODA Budget (Initial Budget)

## (1) ODA Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2022			FY2023		
	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	5,612	-68	-1.2	5,709	98	1.7
Project budget (net)	15,736	-1,621	-9.3	20,415	4,679	29.7
Scale of projects (gross)	22,890	-1,234	-5.1	27,533	4,643	20.3
JP¥ exchange rate against US\$	¥108			¥137		

Note:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.

## (2) ODA General Account Budget

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2022			FY2023		
	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	5,141	-69	-1.3	5,231	90	1.8
1. Bilateral grants	4,124	-68	-1.6	4,235	111	2.7
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,633	1	0.1	1,634	1	0.1
(2) Technical cooperation	2,481	-69	-2.7	2,591	110	4.4
(3) Others	10	—	—	10	—	—
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	1,017	-1	-0.1	996	-21	-2.1
(1) UN and other international organizations	713	2	0.3	650	-63	-8.9
(2) Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)	303	-3	-0.9	346	43	14.0
II Loans	471	1	0.1	478	8	1.6
JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	471	1	0.1	478	8	1.6
III Total	5,612	-68	-1.2	5,709	98	1.7

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.  
 - The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.



**(3) ODA Project Budget**

(Units: ¥100 million, %)

Category	FY2022			FY2023		
	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	8,623	-430	-4.7	8,528	-95	-1.1
1. Bilateral grants	4,777	-83	-1.7	4,878	101	2.1
(1) Economic development assistance, etc.	1,633	1	0.1	1,634	1	0.1
(2) Technical cooperation	3,134	-84	-2.6	3,234	100	3.2
(3) Others	10	—	—	10	—	—
2. Contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	3,846	-347	-8.3	3,650	-196	-5.1
(1) UN and other international organizations	1,163	2	0.2	1,070	-93	-8.0
(2) MDBs	2,683	-349	-11.5	2,580	-103	-3.8
II Loans	14,268	-804	-5.3	19,005	4,738	33.2
(1) JICA (Finance and Investment Account)	14,200	-800	-5.3	18,940	4,740	33.4
(2) Others	68	-4	-5.2	65	-2	-3.2
III Total (project scale)	22,890	-1,234	-5.1	27,533	4,643	20.3
(Reference) Amount recovered	-7,154	—	—	-7,118	—	—
Net	15,736	-1,621	-9.3	20,415	4,679	29.7

## Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥100 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

#### (4) Financial Sources for the ODA Project Budget and Expenditure by Type of Assistance

FY2022 project budget				FY2023 project budget			
Gross ¥2.2890 trillion (5.1% decrease)				Gross ¥2.7533 trillion (20.3% increase)			
Expenditure by type of assistance		Budgetary sources		Budgetary sources		Expenditure by type of assistance	
Grant aid 163.3 billion (0.1% increase)		General account 561.2 billion (1.2% decrease)	MOFA 442.8 billion (1.6% decrease)	General account 570.9 billion (1.7% increase)	MOFA 442.8 billion (0.0% increase)	Grant aid 163.4 billion (0.1% increase)	
Technical cooperation 313.4 billion (2.6% decrease)						Technical cooperation 323.4 billion (3.2% increase)	
Others 1.0 billion (same as previous year)						Others 1.0 billion (same as previous year)	
UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 116.3 billion (0.2% increase)		Total for 11 ODA-related ministries and agencies 118.3 billion (0.2% increase)	Total for 12 ODA-related ministries and agencies 128.1 billion (8.2% increase)	UN and other international organizations (Contributions) 107.0 billion (8.0% decrease)			
MDBs (Contributions/issuance of government bonds for contributions) 268.3 billion (11.5% decrease)		Special account 1.0 billion (0.7% increase)		Special account 1.1 billion (9.9% increase)		MDBs (Contributions/issuance of government bonds for contributions) 258.0 billion (3.8% decrease)	
Loan 1.4268 trillion (5.3% decrease)	Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 282.3 billion (10.9% decrease)		Subscriptions/ issuance of government bonds for contributions 264.6 billion (6.2% decrease)		Loan 1.9005 trillion (33.2% increase)		
	Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 1.4446 trillion (5.4% decrease)		Fiscal Investment and Loan Program, etc. 1.9166 trillion (32.7% increase)				
Net ¥1.5736 trillion (9.3% decrease) Amounts recovered ¥715.4 billion				Net ¥2.0415 trillion (29.7% increase) Amounts recovered ¥711.8 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	FY2022	FY2023		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
Cabinet Office	—	48	48	—
National Police Agency	18	19	1	4.2
Financial Services Agency	191	200	9	4.5
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	842	1,022	180	21.4
Ministry of Justice	368	855	487	132.5
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	442,821	442,841	20	0.0
Ministry of Finance	77,814	82,820	5,007	6.4
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	17,561	17,506	-55	-0.3
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	6,292	10,601	4,309	68.5
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	2,554	2,510	-44	-1.7
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	11,902	11,688	-214	-1.8
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	310	294	-16	-5.1
Ministry of the Environment	492	534	42	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>561,164</b>	<b>570,937</b>	<b>9,773</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥1 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.

**(6) ODA Budget Changes by Each Ministry and Agency (Project Budget)**

(Units: ¥ million, %)

Category	FY2022	FY2023		
	Budget amount	Budget amount	Amount change from previous year	Percentage change from previous year
Cabinet Office	—	48	48	—
National Police Agency	18	19	1	4.2
Financial Services Agency	191	200	9	4.5
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	842	1,022	180	21.4
Ministry of Justice	368	855	487	132.5
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	487,081	484,058	-3,023	-0.6
Ministry of Finance	1,753,624	2,216,305	462,681	26.4
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	17,561	17,506	-55	-0.3
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	6,661	10,943	4,282	64.3
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	9,319	9,055	-264	-2.8
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	12,573	12,490	-83	-0.7
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	310	294	-16	-5.1
Ministry of the Environment	492	534	42	8.5
<b>Total (project scale)</b>	<b>2,289,040</b>	<b>2,753,329</b>	<b>464,289</b>	<b>20.3</b>
<b>(Reference) Amount recovered</b>	<b>-715,438</b>	<b>-711,822</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>1,573,602</b>	<b>2,041,507</b>	<b>467,904</b>	<b>29.7</b>

Notes:

- In this chart, the "Amount change from previous year" and "Percentage change from previous year" are calculated in units of less than ¥1 million. Therefore, they may not correspond to the calculation results using the figures in the table.
- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.



## 2 Japan's ODA Disbursements in 2022

### (1) Official Development Assistance by Type of Assistance and Currency (2022)

2022 (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	963.55	1,161.96	-17.1	1,266.38	1,275.43	-0.7
	Debt relief	3.10	—	100.0	4.08	—	100.0
	Grants through multilateral institutions, etc.	2,293.02	2,100.17	9.2	3,013.68	2,305.26	30.7
	Technical cooperation	2,368.63	2,425.63	-2.4	3,113.05	2,662.50	16.9
	Total grants	5,628.30	5,687.76	-1.0	7,397.19	6,243.19	18.5
	Government loans, etc.						
	(Amount disbursed: Gross disbursement)	14,020.44	12,126.28	15.6	18,426.82	13,310.45	38.4
	(Amount recovered)	5,516.41	6,186.94	-10.8	7,250.13	6,791.11	6.8
	(Amount recovered excluding debt relief)	5,516.41	6,186.94	-10.8	7,250.13	6,791.11	6.8
	(Net disbursement)	8,504.02	5,939.34	43.2	11,176.69	6,519.33	71.4
	(Net disbursement excluding debt relief)	8,504.02	5,939.34	43.2	11,176.69	6,519.33	71.4
	Total bilateral ODA (Gross disbursement basis)	19,648.74	17,814.04	10.3	25,824.01	19,553.64	32.1
	Total bilateral ODA (Net disbursement basis)	14,132.33	11,627.10	21.5	18,573.88	12,762.52	45.5
	Grants to multilateral institutions	2,622.39	3,474.15	-24.5	3,446.56	3,813.41	-9.6
	Government loans, etc. to multilateral institutions (Amount disbursed)	—	670.53	-100.0	—	736.01	-100.0
	Total of contributions and subscriptions to multilateral institutions	2,622.39	4,144.68	-36.7	3,446.56	4,549.42	-24.2
	Total ODA (Gross disbursement)	22,271.13	21,958.72	1.4	29,270.57	24,103.06	21.4
	Total ODA (Net disbursement)	16,754.71	15,771.78	6.2	22,020.44	17,311.95	27.2
	Nominal Gross National Income (GNI) (US\$ billion, ¥ billion)	4,502.22	5,248.00	-14.2	591,719.70	576,048.00	2.7
	% of GNI (Net disbursement basis)	0.37	0.30		0.37	0.30	

Notes:

- Conversion rate: 2021 US\$1 = ¥109.7653, 2022 US\$1 = ¥131.4283 (exchange rates are specified by the OECD-DAC).
- "Grant aid" above does not mean the grant aid scheme of Japan.
- The above table includes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas."

**(2) Distribution of Bilateral ODA by Sector (2022)**

2022 (calendar year)

(Commitment basis, Unit: US\$ million)

Sector	Type	Grant aid	Technical cooperation	Total grants	Government loans, etc.	Bilateral ODA	
						(Share, %)	
I. Social infrastructure & services		1,682.56	609.17	2,291.74	1,593.12	3,884.85	20.86
1. Education		150.14	273.30	423.44	243.48	666.92	3.58
2. Health		1,042.71	140.58	1,183.30	941.32	2,124.62	11.41
3. Population policies and reproductive health		11.92	15.74	27.65	—	27.65	0.15
4. Water and sanitation (water and sewerage)		186.97	78.28	265.25	408.32	673.57	3.62
5. Government and civil society		172.06	44.53	216.59	—	216.59	1.16
6. Other social infrastructure & services		118.77	56.74	175.51	—	175.51	0.94
II. Economic infrastructure & services		283.08	267.70	550.79	7,722.16	8,272.95	44.42
1. Transport and storage		138.23	161.45	299.69	6,859.02	7,158.71	38.43
2. Communications		11.06	29.12	40.18	—	40.18	0.22
3. Energy		126.46	49.46	175.92	767.01	942.93	5.06
4. Banking and financial services		5.21	8.07	13.29	96.14	109.42	0.59
5. Business support		2.12	19.60	21.71	—	21.71	0.12
III. Production sectors		176.41	271.95	448.36	1,480.73	1,929.10	10.36
1. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries		161.30	163.53	324.83	336.99	661.81	3.55
1) Agriculture		121.59	123.50	245.08	336.99	582.07	3.13
2) Forestry		2.82	24.77	27.59	—	27.59	0.15
3) Fisheries		36.89	15.26	52.15	—	52.15	0.28
2. Manufacturing, mining, and construction		5.14	72.61	77.75	1,143.75	1,221.50	6.56
1) Manufacturing		5.14	69.92	75.05	230.70	305.76	1.64
2) Mining		—	2.70	2.70	913.05	915.74	4.92
3) Construction		—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Trade and tourism		9.98	35.81	45.78	—	45.78	0.25
1) Trade		5.43	27.46	32.89	—	32.89	0.18
2) Tourism		4.54	8.35	12.89	—	12.89	0.07
IV. Multi-sector aid		537.99	546.87	1,084.86	638.13	1,722.99	9.25
1. General environmental protection (environmental policy, biodiversity, etc.)		18.32	22.93	41.25	80.16	121.41	0.65
2. Other multi-sector (urban/rural development, etc.)		519.67	523.94	1,043.61	557.97	1,601.58	8.60
V. Commodity aid and general program assistance		64.42	—	64.42	1,478.37	1,542.79	8.28
1. General budget support		—	—	—	1,478.37	1,478.37	7.94
2. Food aid		64.22	—	64.22	—	64.22	0.34
3. Import support		0.20	—	0.20	—	0.20	0.00
VI. Debt relief*1		3.10	—	3.10	—	3.10	0.02
VII. Humanitarian aid (emergency food assistance, reconstruction, disaster risk reduction, etc.)		528.78	7.95	536.72	—	536.72	2.88
VIII. Administrative costs and others		69.72	663.50	733.22	—	733.22	3.94
Total		3,346.07	2,367.14	5,713.21	12,912.51	18,625.72	100.00
BHN (I.+III.1+V.2+VII.)		2,436.86	780.65	3,217.50	1,930.10	5,147.61	27.64

Notes:

- The total figure may not be the same as the figure when calculated by adding up due to rounding off.
- "Grant aid" above does not mean the grant aid scheme of Japan.
- The above table includes assistance for the graduated countries designated as "developing areas."
- BHN (basic human needs) are composed of: I. Social infrastructure; III-1. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries, V-2. Food aid, and VII. Humanitarian aid from the table above.
- BHN refer to the minimum living requirements for human beings such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as education.
- The data is based on how the OECD DAC measures and collects data.

\*1 "VI. Debt relief" does not mean granting new funds but rather modifying repayments and other conditions of loans already provided by the government. "Debt relief" in 2022 is debt cancellation on a commercial basis, and it does not include debt rescheduling.

## **White Paper on Development Cooperation 2023 Japan's International Cooperation**

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