

# Japan's Cooperation in Education Sector for Realizing Innovative Societies

Japan takes the following initiatives for realizing innovation societies.

- (1) Promoting support for education sector to achieve EFA and education-related MDGs, to develop human resources needed for innovation society and to generate and disseminate innovative knowledge and technology
- (2) Promoting student exchange programs in cooperation with industry
- (3) Accelerating adaptation and integration of foreign nationals in Japan through the assistance for language education

## *Realizing Innovative Societies*

Promoting support for education sector to achieve EFA and education-related MDGs, to develop human resources needed for innovation society and to generate and disseminate innovative knowledge and technology

Ensuring access to quality basic education for all

Supporting higher education as the center of knowledge

Supporting technical education and vocational training

Promoting student exchange programs in cooperation with industry

Adaptation and integration of foreign nationals in Japan through the assistance for language education

# 1. Promoting support for education sector to achieve EFA and education-related MDGs, to develop human resources needed for innovation society and to generate and disseminate innovative knowledge and technology

(1) Japan will support efforts to provide basic education with good quality for all including children who will be the leaders of the next generation.

## <Concrete Actions>

◆ Japan is committed to assisting education sector in developing countries, as a priority area of its ODA. Japan's total amount of bilateral assistance in education sector for the five year period 2000 to 2004 is approximately US\$ 4.72 billion.

◆ Japan announced the "Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN)" in 2002 with the aim of helping achieve EFA including universal primary education by 2015. In accordance with the strategy of BEGIN, Japan supports efforts to ensure access to education, improve the quality and the management of education, with full respect for the ownership of developing countries.

◆ Japan plans to make financial contribution to the trust funds of EFA-Fast Track Initiative (FTI), a global partnership between donor and developing countries to ensure accelerated progress towards the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015.

◆ Science and mathematics education provides people with essential skills for living. Japan currently supports the efforts of developing countries to improve the quality of science and mathematics education at primary and secondary levels in 27 countries. With support from Japan, more than 140,000 people were trained from 2003 to 2005 in the quality improvement of science and mathematics education. Through such training, the quality of teachers will be improved, which will contribute to the improved quality of education and enhanced children's interest and understanding of the subject.

◆ Japan promotes "capacity development" of developing countries, so as to sustain the achievement of its cooperation in the field of education including science and mathematics education. As a part of its support to capacity development, Japan actively promotes "South-South Cooperation," in which a recipient countries transfers the knowledge and experiences gained through Japan's assistance to other developing countries facing with similar challenges.

(2) Japan supports efforts to increase the access to and improve the quality of higher education in developing countries as the “center of knowledge.”

<Concrete Actions>

- ◆ Japan actively supports the expansion and the improvement of higher education in developing countries, with the aim of developing human resources equipped with advanced knowledge and skills, promoting research on innovative knowledge and technology, and disseminating newly generated knowledge to the wider society.
- ◆ Japan’s assistance in the field of higher education includes; construction/rehabilitation/expansion of higher education institutions, improvement of the educational contents and methods, improvement of school management, promotion of cooperation between universities and industry, and promotion of distance education through the use of ICT.
- ◆ Japan’s new areas of assistance include; building closer cooperation between and among universities in Japan and developing countries by using ICT (“*Development of the Faculty of Economics and Business Management of National University of Laos*”), improving the quality of higher education through establishing the regional network of higher education institutions (“*Southeast Asia Engineering Education Network AUN (SEED-NET)*”), strengthening the ability of higher education institutions to respond to the challenges faced by local communities through research and practice (“*Sokoine University of Agriculture Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Tanzania*”), and developing schemes for acknowledgement of degree credits between different higher education institutions (“*Higher Education Loan Fund Project, Malaysia*”).

(3) Japan supports efforts to increase access to and improve the quality of technical education and vocational training in developing countries for reducing poverty and fostering skilled workforce.

<Concrete Actions>

- ◆ Japan actively supports technical education and vocational training in developing countries, with the aim of increasing income and fostering skilled human resources needed for industrial development. Japan dispatched as many as 1,200 experts to 93 developing countries in the field of technical education and vocational training during the three year period between 2003 and 2005.
- ◆ Japan provides support to “South-South Cooperation” in the field of technical education and vocational training. For example, in Senegal and Uganda, the vocational training institutions that were supported by Japan have developed to become the regional hub of vocational training, accepting trainees from neighboring countries.
- ◆ Japan provides active support to technical education and vocational training for socially disadvantaged people including the poor and women.
- ◆ Japan’s new areas of assistance include; curriculum development relevant to the market needs, trainers’ capacity enhancement, strengthening collaboration between business and the academia, and sustainable school management (*“The Project for Strengthening Training Capability for Technical Workers in the Hanoi Industrial College, Vietnam”*, *“Establishment of Industrial Automation Technologies Departments in Anatorian Technical High Schools, Turkey”*).

## 2. Promoting exchange programs in cooperation with industry

Japan will contribute to greater exchange and interaction through promoting student exchange programs in cooperation with industry.



Increased academic mobility plays a significant role not only in promoting mutual understanding and building human networks but in acquiring access to innovation overseas and providing efficiently necessary knowledge and skills for innovative societies.

### < Concrete Actions >

- ◆ In 1983 Japan started the Plan to Accept 100,000 International Students and has been working to increase the number of international students it hosts. As a result the number of international students studying at universities and other institutions in Japan rose to an all-time high of 121,000 in 2005.
- ◆ Japan has been extending the Japanese Government scholarship to more than 69,000 international students from 160 countries and regions for their study at universities and other institutions in Japan through Japanese government scholarship student system. Japan continues such support for international students.
- ◆ Japan also supports self-supported international students through offering honors scholarship and assists short-term exchange students.
- ◆ Through these activities Japan strives to achieve the following objectives; (1) to promote mutual understanding and develop human networks, (2) to make an intellectual contribution to the international community, (3) to enhance international profile of Japanese universities and increase their international competitiveness.
- ◆ Japan will promote student exchange programs in cooperation with industry so that international students can improve their career in future with their knowledge and skills they acquired at the universities and other institutions in Japan.
- ◆ Specifically Japan will give support to activities implemented through cooperation between universities and industry such as seminars that provide support for the employment of international students, internship and practical training courses of business Japanese.

### 3. Realizing and accelerating adaptation and integration of foreign nationals in Japan through the assistance for language education

Japan will accelerate smooth adaptation and integration of foreign nationals in Japan through the effective implementation of Japanese-language education both in Japan and abroad.



Society can promote innovation and improve its own dynamism by accepting talented individuals with diverse cultural backgrounds, and benefiting from their skills and expertise.

#### < Concrete Actions >

- ◆ Japan dispatches Japanese-language specialists and teachers from Japan, accepts Japanese-language teachers abroad for training in Japan, distributes Japanese-language teaching materials and conducts the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test for promoting Japanese-language education overseas.
- ◆ Training of volunteers and support for local Japanese-language class are implemented to fulfill need for Japanese-language education suitable for each region in Japan.
- ◆ Easy to understand teaching materials with the guidance introducing some examples of cross-cultural understanding by manga (cartoons) have been developed.
- ◆ Japan assists pupils and children from abroad by developing teaching methods of Japanese-language in school education.

