

Japan's policy of supporting engagement with MENA countries

Japan will continue to play an active role in addressing crucial challenges for the international community as a whole, including the MEPP, the Iranian nuclear issue, and counter-terrorism.

In response to the on-going seismic change in the landscape of the region, Japan will continue to support MENA countries' own efforts to bring about stable transitions and to carry out domestic reforms, in close coordination with the rest of the international community:

- Support of GOJ, in partnership with civil society and business community, will mainly focus on (a) fair political process and government, (b) Human resource development and (c) job creation/fostering of industries.

- GOJ will continue efforts to advance economic relationships and mutual understanding with MENA countries, which will forge a positive environment for our support to MENA countries during their reforms and transitions.

- GOJ will also share with MENA countries the experience and history of the many Asian success stories where countries achieved both economic development and democracy, as well as the role that Japan played in supporting these countries' efforts.

Japan's support to MENA countries

1. Priorities in our support to MENA countries' reform

Fair political process and government

Electoral assistance
Support for good governance (training for government officials, support for civil society, media, etc.)
Addressing disparity and enhancing stability (rural development, poverty reduction, water resource development, disaster prevention, security measures, etc...)

Human resource development

Development of vocational training and other educational facilities
Capacity building of industrial engineers
Supporting higher education in science and technology (such as E-JUST)

Job creation, fostering of industries

Continuing infrastructure develop (\$2.5bil to be disbursed for hitherto committed yen loan projects)
Industry diversification (including SMEs), Improvement of investment environment
Sharing Japanese experience and know-how (manufacturing technology, renewable energy, energy saving, etc...)

2. Advancing economic relationships and mutual understanding

Economic diplomacy

Economic Treaties with MENA countries
Enhancing Japan/MENA ties in the area of natural resources
Promoting business-to-business relationships (e.g. Japan-Arab Economic Forum)

Forging People-to-people relationships and dialogues

Expanding the network of personal contacts through our capacity building activities
Presentations of Japanese culture and society
Exchange of more than one hundred media people, intellectuals, cultural figures, etc...
"Dialogue for the Future between Japan and the Islamic World"
Scholarships for Arab students