



Japan's Actions to Combat Trafficking in Persons

A Prompt and Appropriate Response from a Humanitarian Perspective

“Trafficking in persons (TIP) is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights and dignity.”

National Action Plan

The Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee adopted the National Action Plan in 2004 and has been steadily implementing it.

Prevention

Eradication

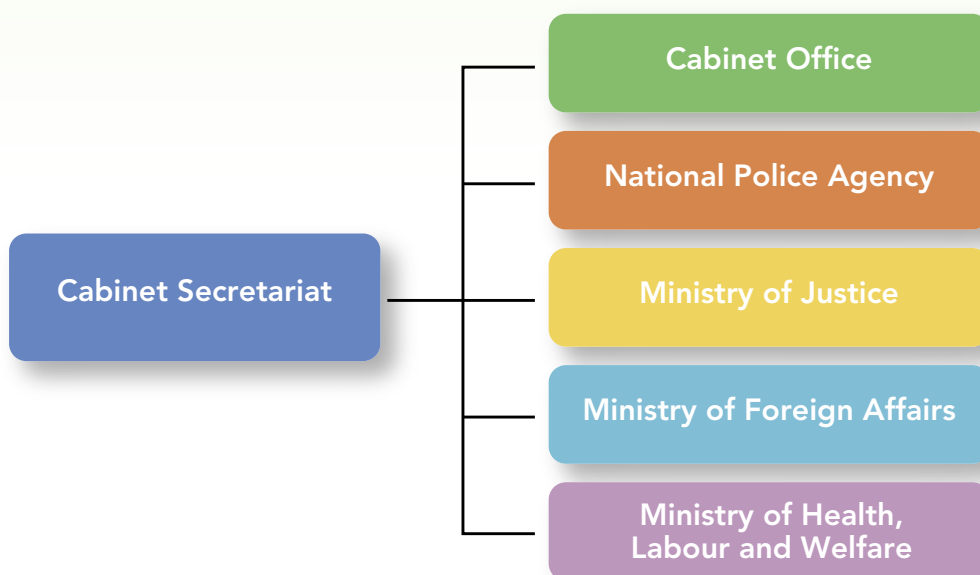
Protection of Victims

International Cooperation

The Japanese Government is promoting international cooperation with countries of origin and destination, international organizations and NGOs.

Task Force

The Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee (Task Force) was established at the Cabinet in April 2004.



Action Plan of Measures to Combat TIP (Adopted on December 7, 2004)

I. Importance of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

- Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective.
- Formulation of an action plan for taking general and comprehensive measures as quickly as possible

- Consider victims to be entitled to protective custody and respond sensitively
- Establish penal regulations and tighten control
- Prevent trafficking in persons; revision of various systems that have failed to prevent trafficking in persons

II. Thorough Grasping of the Current Situation of Trafficking in Persons

III. General and Comprehensive Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

III-1. Conclusion of the Palermo Protocol

III-2. Measures to Prevent TIP

- Revise the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act
- Strengthen immigration control
- Ensure security of travel-related documents
- Review residence status and visas for “entertainers”
- Countermeasures against false marriages
- Measures to prevent illegal employment
- Measures to prevent prostitution

III-3. Measures to Eradicate TIP

- Revise criminal laws
- Criminalize trafficking in persons by revising the Penal Code
- Implement thorough crackdown
- Promote information exchange on travel documents, etc.
- Enhance coordination with and promote information exchange among investigating authorities of foreign countries

III-4. Protect Victims of TIP

- Identify victims
- Provide shelters
- Use Women’s Consultation Offices
- Entrust private sector shelters to offer temporary protective custody
- Conduct counseling and consultation activities
- Provide protection to victims who have sought shelter at police boxes
- Handle residence status of victims (give special permission for residence)
- Ensure the safety of victims
- Offer return and reintegration assistance to victims

III-5. Points to Be Considered

- Examine and review the action plan
- Raise social awareness and conduct PR activities
- Cooperate with domestic and international agencies concerned (foreign agencies, NGOs, etc.)
- Implement trainings for officials involved in measures to combat TIP

Prevention

We have strengthened immigration control by reviewing laws, regulations and measures.

Strengthening of Immigration Control

- The Japanese Government operates strict border control in order to prevent illegal entry including for the purpose of human trafficking. The Japanese Government has established a Document Examination Office at airports to prevent counterfeit and alteration of official documents.
- The Japanese Government conducts patrol activities in airport transit areas in order to deter persons from entering a third country via Japan, and to prevent the use of falsified documents.



Amendment to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

- 1) Addition of "trafficker" to list of persons subject to landing refusal or deportation
- 2) Criminalization of the possession and issuing of falsified documents, such as passports, for the purpose of facilitating illegal entry
- 3) Introduction of administrative fines on carriers that fail to check passports
- 4) Introduction of information provisions to foreign immigration authorities

Amendment to the Ministerial Ordinance of MOJ

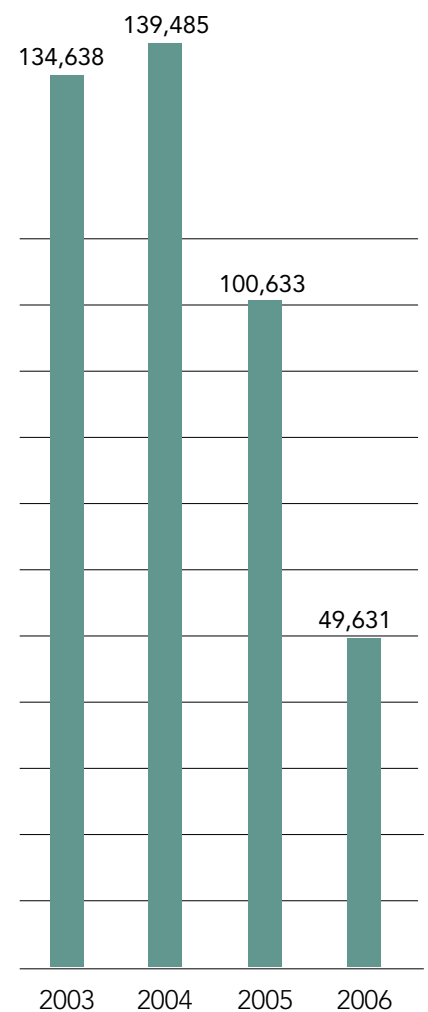
Since reviewing the resident status of "Entertainer" in March 2005 and June 2006 in order to reduce abuse by traffickers, the number of foreigners entering Japan with "Entertainer" visas has dropped about 65% from 135,000 in 2004 to 48,000 in 2006.

Implementation of Careful Visa Examination

- Implementation of strict identity checks, especially for applicants of "Entertainer" visas
- Implementation of careful examination of young women from source countries that are vulnerable to human trafficking

Measures to Prevent Forgery and the Illegal Use of a Passport or Visa

- Incorporation of an IC chip in passports
- Introduction of machine-readable visa (MRV) stickers with bearer's photograph



Number of "Entertainer" Visa Issuance

Eradication

We have amended penal code and other laws for stricter law enforcement.

Amendment to the Penal Code

In accordance with the Palermo Protocol, the Ministry of Justice submitted to the 162nd Diet session on February 25, 2005 a bill for Partial Amendment of the Penal Code, which included an article to criminalize the buying and selling of human beings. The Diet passed the bill on June 22, 2005, and the amended Act entered into force on July 12, 2005. This amendment has made it possible to severely punish traffickers of persons.

The U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

Criminalization of TIP, protection of trafficked victims, preventive measures

The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

Criminalization of the smuggling of migrants

* The Japanese Diet approved the conclusion of these Protocols in 2005.

Punish traffickers

Protect victims

Prevent TIP, smuggling of migrants

Amendment to the Penal Code

Criminalize the following activities:

- Selling or buying of persons
 - Kidnapping for the purpose of harm to body or life
 - Transporting, transferring, and harboring of victims of kidnapping, abduction, or buying or selling of persons
 - Kidnapping, abduction, and buying or selling with the aim of transfer overseas, from the country of origin
- Raise the statutory penalty for kidnapping by force or enticement, abduction, and buying or selling of persons

Amendment to the Law for Punishment of Organized Crimes, Control of Crime Proceeds and Other Matters

This law was amended to designate trafficking in persons as an offence to be covered as predicate offences for money laundering

Amendment to the Law on Control and Improvement of Amusement Businesses

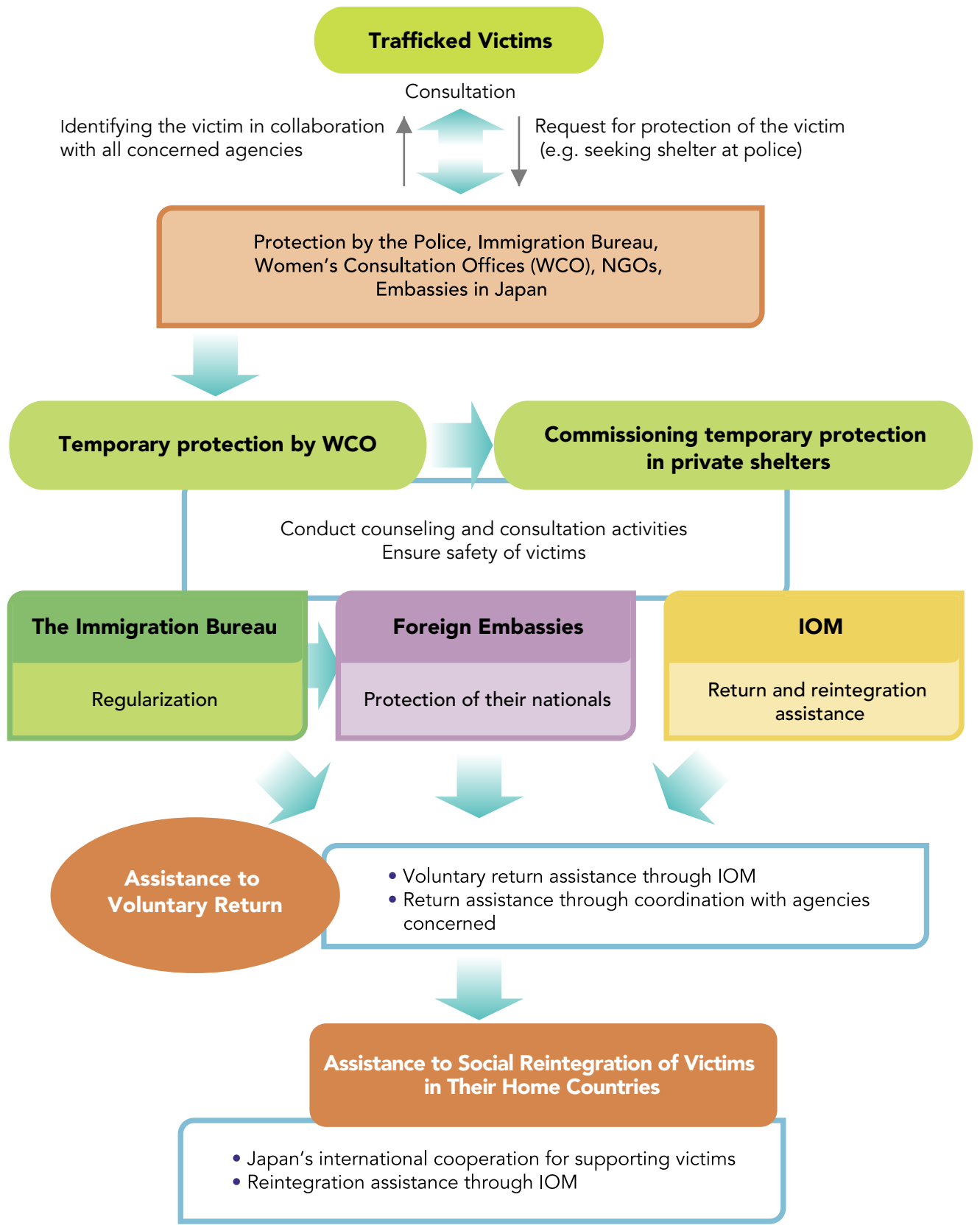
This law was amended to inhibit illicit work by requiring the owners of amusement/sex-related businesses to verify immigration status of foreign employees at the time of their recruitment.

Information Sharing on Passports and Visas

- The Japanese Government shares information internationally on invalid Japanese passports, most of which are stolen or lost, by providing data to the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO).
- Establishment of a Visa Wide Area Network (Visa-WAN), in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its overseas establishments, and other related ministries and agencies are instantly connected and can exchange information concerning visa checks and issuance.

Protection

We are ensuring a system for victim identification and protection.



Amendment to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

- A victim of TIP is exempted from some of the landing refusal grounds and deportation grounds.
- Special permission of residence can be granted to TIP victims.
- "Traffickers" are subject to landing refusal and deportation.



Anonymous Reporting Line

The "Anonymous Reporting Line" was introduced in October 2007, in order for citizens to provide information anonymously about human trafficking and other cases that tend to remain underground.

An informant makes an anonymous report to a trustee organization and the trustee organization reports to NPA.

Leaflets for Help

The Japanese Government publishes leaflets (available in nine languages) to help victims find assistance at Immigration Offices and police stations across Japan. The leaflets are widely distributed to overseas establishments, international airports, Embassies and NGOs.

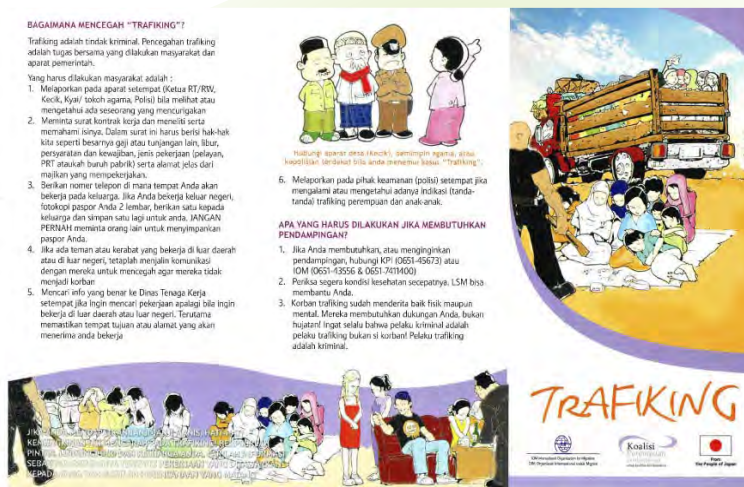
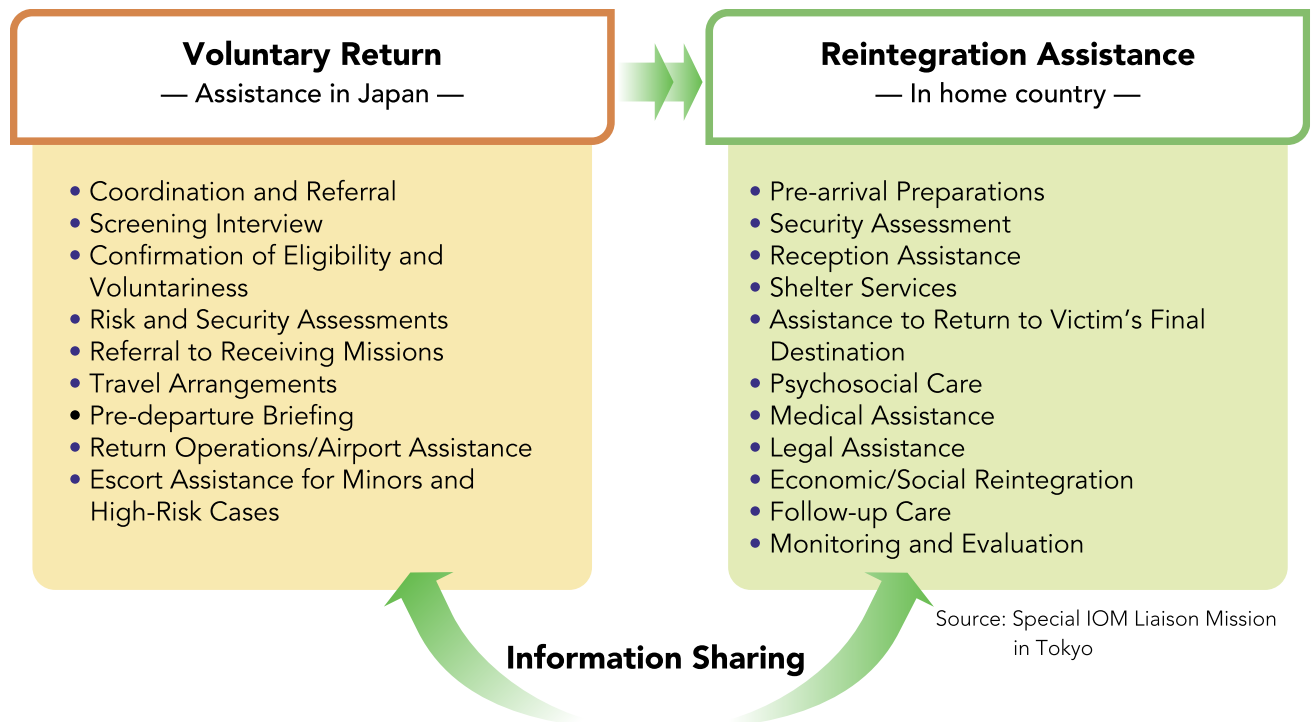
The image shows a grid of leaflets for help, with the top row showing the Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and English versions. Each leaflet contains contact information for various organizations and government offices in Japan, such as the National Police Agency, Immigration Offices, and NGOs. The text is presented in a clear, organized manner, with contact details for different cities like Sapporo, Sendai, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, and Fukuoka. The leaflets are designed to be easily accessible and understandable for victims of human trafficking.

Leaflets in nine languages

Return and Reintegration Assistance to Victims

We are supporting victims' return to their home countries and assisting their social reintegration through IOM.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance funded by the Japanese Government has been available since April 2005; As of December 2007, it assisted 126 victims in returning to their home countries and supported the victims' social reintegration.



Part of the assistance to 2004 Tsunami survivors, IOM implemented a region-wide information campaign to prevent human trafficking in Aceh, Indonesia. This campaign leaflet is produced with support from the Government of Japan and distributed to people in Aceh, especially vulnerable women and children.

Public Awareness

Videos, posters, brochures, websites and other media are used to raise public awareness.

DVD

The National Police Agency, among others, produced in 2003 Videos and DVDs called "Trafficking" (Japanese, English and Spanish versions available) to raise awareness about the grave offense of trafficking in persons. These videos and DVDs have been distributed to local police, institutions and organizations concerned.

Posters

Since 2004, the Cabinet Office has conducted annual public information and awareness-raising activities including the publication of posters regarding measures to eradicate trafficking in persons, targeting the general public and foreign residents in Japan. In 2007, 25,500 copies were distributed to more than 1,000 entities.

Pamphlets

In 2006, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed 5,000 copies of the pamphlets which explain anti-trafficking measures of the Japanese Government.

Japan's Visa Policy in Accordance with Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs published "Japan's Visa Policy in Accordance with Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons" on its website in English and Japanese. This was meant to raise awareness about TIP among both foreigners who intend to travel to Japan and Japanese nationals who invite them. Furthermore, the contents aimed at foreigners were translated into several languages of the major source countries and have been published on the websites of Japanese Embassies and Consulates-General in those countries; printed brochures are also distributed at visa counters and local travel agencies for potential victims. (<http://www.mofa.go.jp/j-info/visit/visa/traffick.html>)



Poster to raise public awareness



Pamphlet



English website

International Cooperation

We are promoting dialogue with other countries through dispatch of inter-ministerial delegation and seminars.

Dispatch of Inter-ministerial Delegation

The government delegation comprised of ministries and agencies concerned was dispatched five times to other countries (mainly to countries of origin) to discuss prevention of trafficking in persons and to promote information sharing with other governments, international organizations, and NGOs.

The Seminar on Combating the Commercial and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Southeast Asia

Every year since 2002, the National Police Agency (NPA) has invited representatives of police forces, judicial bodies and NGOs from various Southeast Asian countries to Japan to take part in seminars and conferences for law enforcement officers regarding the commercial and sexual exploitation of children. Participants in these seminars and conferences exchange views on how to tackle this problem in Southeast Asia.

Contact Point Meeting for Trafficking in Persons

By establishing a "contact point" between the NPA and foreign embassies, international organizations, and NGOs concerned with trafficking in persons, the Japanese Government has built a system under which information about trafficking cases can be exchanged whenever the need arises. Moreover, the Government hosts a Contact Point Meeting once a year in which all concerned parties, including representatives of various foreign embassies, meet to exchange information and views on human trafficking cases.

Seminars with Immigration Officers in Southeast Asia

Every year since 1987, the Immigration Bureau has invited immigration officers from across Southeast Asia to a Seminar on Immigration Control in Southeast Asia. The participants exchange information on the current situation and measures to combat TIP and rescue and protect trafficked victims. The Immigration Bureau will continue to cooperate proactively with Southeast Asia through this seminar.



The 2nd Meeting of Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter Trafficking in Persons (September 2007)

The Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter Trafficking in Persons

The Japan-Thailand Joint Task Force on Counter Trafficking in Persons was established and the first meeting was held in Bangkok in May 2006. The Task Force aims at strengthening cooperation between Japan and Thailand on prevention, law enforcement and protection. The second meeting took place in Tokyo in September 2007.

Since 2002, Japan has provided assistance of approximately US\$ 95,017,331 for international cooperation to combat TIP.

Recent Examples of Assistance Projects

Year	Country	Project	Scheme	U.S.\$
2007	Tajikistan	Community development through employment creation and improved migration management	Trust Fund for Human Security	1,095,039
2006	Thailand, Philippines	Economic and Social Empowerment of Returned Victims of Trafficking	Trust Fund for Human Security	1,977,116
2003	Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan	Adolescent Girls, Trafficking and HIV/AIDS: Strengthening Responses in South Asia	Trust Fund for Human Security	1,030,000
2004 (FY)	Thailand	The Project for Prevention of Human Trafficking and Support Its Victims in Phayao Province	Grass-roots Human Security Grant Aid	89,588
2004 (FY)	Colombia	Project for Assistance of the Prevention of Human Trafficking through Elaboration of Information Material	Grass-roots Human Security Grant Aid	76,881
2005	Philippines, Thailand	UNICEF project on Child Trafficking and Exploitation in South East Asia focusing on Philippines and Thailand	Voluntary contribution	345,748 300,000
2007 2006 2005 2004		Financial contribution to the Bali Process (Implementing agency: IOM)	Voluntary contribution	10,000 10,000 10,000 10,000
2007 2006 2005		Return and reintegration assistance to victims (Implementing agency: IOM)	Voluntary contribution	300,000 322,000 222,486
2006	Thailand	Art Therapy for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (Implementing agency: UNODC)	Voluntary contribution	13,000

The participation/financial contribution to the Bali Process

Japan has funded approximately US\$10,000 every year since 2004 to re-designing and maintaining the Bali Process website. In June 2005, Japan held the "Bali Process Workshop on Developing a Coordinated Inter-Agency National Action Plan to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons and Transnational Crime."

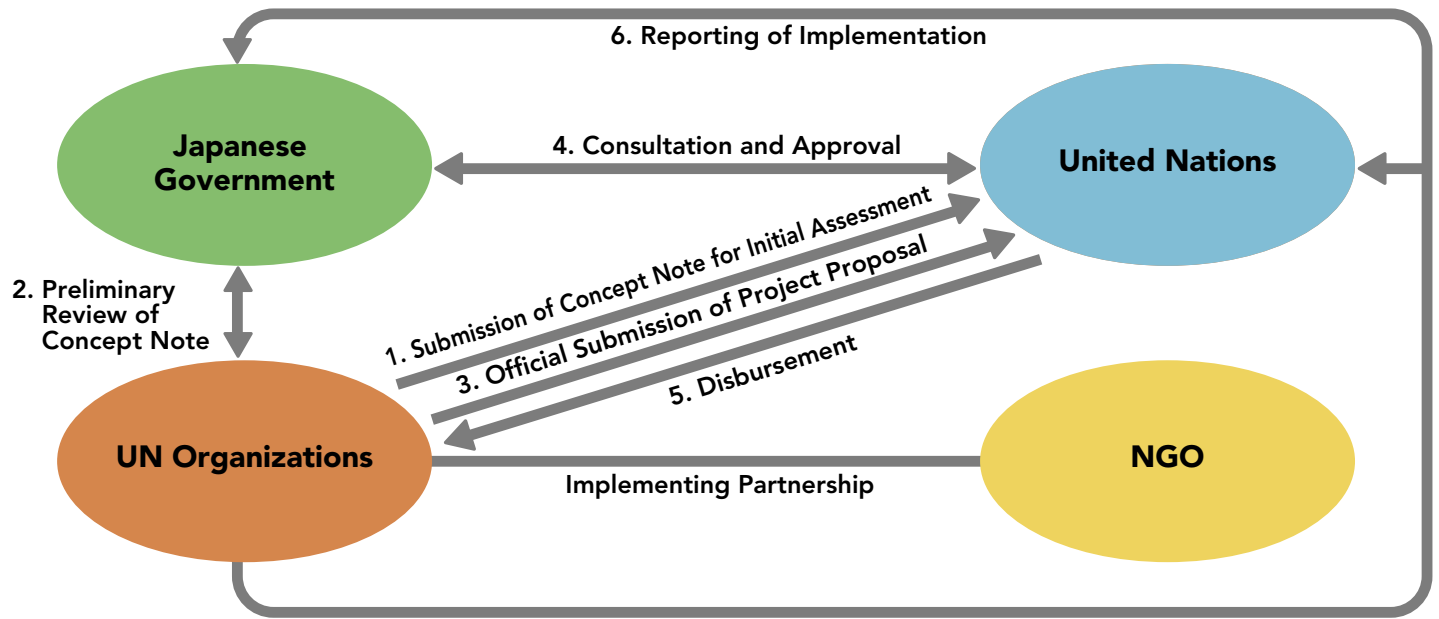


Funding Schemes (Examples)

UN Trust Fund for Human Security

The Trust Fund for Human Security was established in the United Nations Secretariat in March 1999 at the initiative of the Japanese Government. Since then, total contributions have reached approximately 35.4 billion yen (US\$314 million) as of December 2007. The Trust Fund has

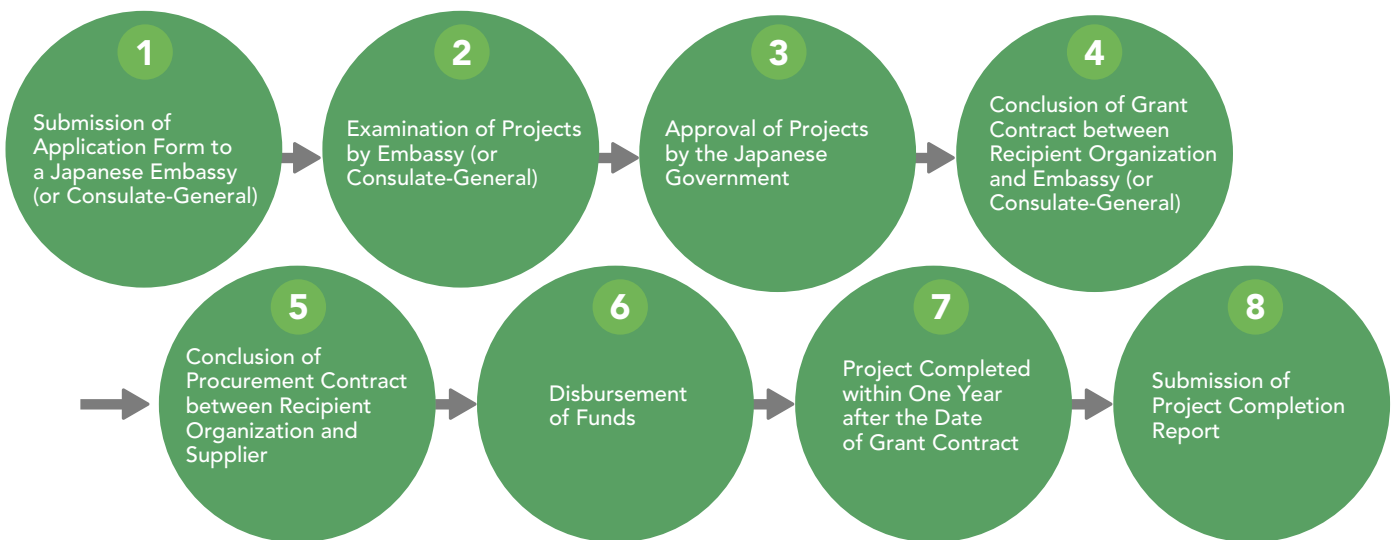
supported more than 180 projects from UN agencies, each one addressing various threats to human life, livelihood and dignity, from the perspective of human security. UN agencies are eligible to apply for funding.



Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects

Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects support small-scale development projects (the grant amount is generally under 10 million yen) proposed by such bodies as NGOs, hospitals, primary schools and

local governmental authorities. This scheme provides timely support to development projects at the grass-roots level of the recipient countries.



Contact: International Organized Crime Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3580-3311