

Preface

This year marked the 60th anniversary of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) for developing countries. During these 60 years, Japan provided assistance to people in developing countries and regions for maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community. Japan's ODA has unique components, such as assistance for self-help efforts, emphasis on sustainable economic growth, and promotion of human security. Such assistance has contributed to economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries as well as to the resolution of various issues facing the international community.

Over the years, however, the environment surrounding Japan and the international community has changed considerably, necessitating the further evolution of Japan's ODA. To adapt to these changes, this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) has decided to revise the ODA Charter. The Charter is currently being reviewed with the aim of establishing a new Charter by the end of this year. In this process, we are receiving various inputs, including those from experts, NGOs, civil society groups, and the business community.

Under the new Charter, ODA evaluation must play a more critical role in order to implement ODA with even higher quality and fulfill accountability to the Japanese people.

To deepen understanding of ODA evaluation among a wider range of people, MOFA strives to carry out ODA evaluations in a clear and comprehensible manner. Furthermore, MOFA works to ensure that the evaluation results contribute to improving ODA policies and developing new projects. Moreover, every year MOFA issues an annual report that introduces such initiatives and provides an overview of ODA evaluation activities by the Government of Japan as a whole.

In this year's report, Chapter 1 provides an overview of ODA evaluation trends in Japan and the international community. Chapter 2 outlines the results of evaluations conducted mainly in FY2013 by MOFA, other government ministries and agencies, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and a partner country, respectively. Chapter 3 explains the status of MOFA's follow-ups on FY2012 ODA evaluation results.

We hope this report will provide our readers with a deeper understanding of Japan's ODA and its evaluation.

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Cover Photos

Top left: From the “Country Assistance Evaluation of Lao PDR”



Bus running in Vientiane donated through Japan's ODA

In the capital city of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Vientiane, the demand for public bus has been increasing considerably as a means of transportation for the people. Moreover, old buses are in service, leading to various problems, including accidents, traffic congestion, and air pollution. In the light of this situation, Japan assisted with the procurement of 42 buses which were made in Japan, have excellent fuel efficiency, and are environmentally friendly, along with the procurement of parts and equipment for bus maintenance and repair. This assistance has contributed to securing the safety of bus transportation and reducing traffic congestion and accidents in Vientiane.

Bottom left: From the “Evaluation of Assistance to the African Millennium Villages Initiative”



A woman harvesting squash leaves in an African Millennium Village (AMV) in Malawi

AMV is an assistance project proposed by the United Nations Millennium Project (UNMP). It aims to eliminate extreme poverty in impoverished villages in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been delayed. The project does so through a comprehensive development approach, which seeks self-sustaining development capabilities of villages.

Japan provided assistance to nine villages in eight countries through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS). In the AMV of Malawi, Japan's assistance has enabled the harvesting of diverse crops, including maize, soybean, onion, and squash.

Top right: From the “Country Assistance Evaluation of Colombia”



School children in Chapinero, Bogota

The influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing armed conflict from rural areas and provincial cities into Bogota, the capital city of Colombia, has led to the rise of slum areas in the city. In these areas, crime, violence, drug dealing, and other problems are rampant and have caused deterioration in the security situation. Chapinero was one of such areas, and there were many children who were unable to go to school.

To address this situation, the Nueva Granada Home Foundation, a local NGO, established a school in this area in 2000 to provide education to primarily poor children, including IDPs.

In 2009, Japan provided financial assistance to the Foundation for the construction of new school buildings (three classrooms). These classrooms are used as a library, an art room, and a music room, which are intended to enrich the education provided at the school. The library, also accessible to parents, contributes to raising their literary rate.

Bottom right: From the “Evaluation of Assistance for the Urban Transportation Sector in Viet Nam”



Nhat Tan Bridge (Vietnam-Japan Friendship Bridge) being constructed with Japan's ODA

Japan is assisting with the construction of the Nhat Tan Bridge (Vietnam-Japan Friendship Bridge). This assistance aims to cope with the increasing transportation demand, especially in Hanoi, increase distribution efficiency, and lessen traffic congestion. In Phase III of this project, Japan is supporting the construction of a bridge, approach roads over the Red River running through Hanoi, and so on. The bridge is expected not only to increase distribution efficiency and reduce traffic congestion but also to promote economic development in Hanoi and in northern Vietnam. The substructure of the Nhat Tan Bridge (Vietnam-Japan Friendship Bridge) was constructed using the SPSP (steel pipe sheet pile) well foundation method, a technology which is unique to Japan.