Consolidation of Peace
Japan’s Contribution to Peace and Reconstruction of Afghanistan
—toward a society in which men, women and children can develop their full potential and enjoy a happy life—
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Japan's Assistance to Peace and Reconstruction of Afghanistan Reconfirmed

Foreign Minister
Kawaguchi Visits
Afghanistan

Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi visited Afghanistan on May 1 and 2, 2002. In her talks with former King Mohammad Zahir Shah and leaders of the Afghanistan Interim Authority (AIA) including Chairman Hamid Karzai and Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, Minister Kawaguchi reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to actively assist the pursuit of the peace and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

In response, former King Zahir, Chairman Karzai and other AIA leaders, expressed their gratitude for Japan’s cooperation and their hope for continued support.

Minister Kawaguchi took the opportunity to visit a school being repaired with Japan’s assistance and a landmine clearance site, and held talks with NGOs (non-governmental organizations) not only from Japan and other nations but also from Afghanistan, which are actively engaged in assistance activities in the field. This visit by Minister Kawaguchi has led to “a message sent to the entire world” demonstrating Japan’s determination to support the peace and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Peace and Reconstruction Process in Afghanistan

December 5, 2001
Bonn Agreement

December 22, 2001
Establishment of Afghanistan Interim Authority (AIA)

January 21-22, 2002
International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan (followed 6 months after establishment of AIA)

June 10-16, 2002
Emergency Loya Jirga

Establishment of Transitional Authority

by December, 2003
Adoption of new Constitution

by June 22, 2004
Elections within the framework of new Constitution

Establishment of the Government of Afghanistan

Modalities of Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan

Presented by Japan to the World

The International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan

On January 21 and 22, 2002, Japan hosted the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan (ICOA) in Tokyo, co-chaired by the United States, the European Union and Saudi Arabia, paving the way forward for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Representatives from 61 countries including Chairman Karzai of the AIA, as well as leaders of 21 international organizations attended the conference. At the Conference a strong message was announced globally by the participants, pledging more than 4.5 billion dollars in total, of which 1.8 billion dollars is intended for the first year (2002). Japan pledged up to 500 million dollars over the next two years and six months, of which up to 250 million dollars is for the first year.
Japan's Assistance toward "Consolidation of Peace"

Japan pledged, as reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan, up to 500 million dollars over the next two years and six months, of which up to 250 million dollars is for the first year. More specifically, Japan will promote assistance based on the concept of "Consolidation of Peace" that consists of three components: peace process, domestic security and reconstruction and humanitarian assistance. Just like a tripod, "Consolidation of Peace" would never stand if any one of the components were missing.

Peace Process includes an important pillar: supporting the process of the forthcoming Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ), the success of which is indispensable for bringing about a lasting, peaceful democracy in Afghanistan.

Domestic Security consists of important pillars such as: the reintegration of former combatants and returning refugees into peaceful local communities; the reform of civil police force; the fight against drugs; the clearing of landmines, etc. All of these should be regarded as prerequisites for reconstruction activities.

Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance supports people of Afghanistan in creating their own new, peaceful nation. Major focuses will be on rebuilding of local communities, human resources development, infrastructure improvement, etc. In order to promote this support actively, gender consideration plays an important role, while closer collaboration with NGOs will be essential.

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**Consolidation of Peace**

1. **Peace Process**
   - **Emergency Loya Jirga**
     - Assistance of $2.7 million for the procurement of equipment and materials necessary for setting up the ELJ special commission members and UN monitors as well as for air transport of ELJ special commission members and UN monitors.
   - **Reintegration of Former Combatants**
     - "Register for Peace" plan to provide employment opportunities to disarmed, demobilized former combatants (under consideration).
   - **Reform of Civil Police Force**
     - Provision of equipment and materials such as wireless communications instruments/vehicles for logistic use, repairs of police facilities (under consideration).
   - **Counter-narcotics Issues**
     - Development of projects to reinforce the anti-narcotics capacity (under consideration).
     - Promotion of alternative crops for poppy farmers (under consideration).

2. **Domestic Security**
   - **Landmine Clearance**
     - Assistance of $19.22 million as part of refugees support activities.

3. **Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance**

4. **Rebuilding of Local Communities**
   - Implementation of "Recovery and Employment Afghanistan Programme" (REAP).
   - Human Resources Development
     - Contribution to the "Back to School Campaign".
     - Repairs of school facilities.
     - Repairs of equipment in the field of education and acceptance of trainees such as teachers.
     - Acceptance of trainees in the field of health and medical care.
   - Infrastructure Improvement
     - Assistance to the improvement of media infrastructure.
     - Public transportation network improvement plan for the city of Kabul.
     - City planning of the southwestern area of Kabul.

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**As a member of the international community, Japan has been significantly contributing to the global activities to eradicate terrorism from the world.**

While US forces and others have been enforcing military action on the Taliban group and others to eradicate terrorist threats that have been brought about by the attacks on US of Sept 11, Japan recognizes that it is a problem to the nation as well, enacted an "Anti-Terrorism Special Law" to lay the groundwork for Japan to contribute its maximum support and cooperation within the framework of the Constitution. Under the law, Japan Maritime Self-defense Force Fleets have been engaged in supporting activities such as refueling to warships of US and UK fighting terrorism, and transporting of logistic commodities by Air Self-defense Force's aircraf/tes.

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"Hamana" (left), a Japanese supply vessel supplies fuel to a US supply ship in the Arabian Sea.
Assistance to Loya Jirga

Establishment of Democracy and Groundwork for a Peaceful Afghanistan

Since 1996, Japan has advocated holding international conferences to secure stability and peace in Afghanistan. As a result, this advocacy has come to fruition with the Washington Meeting in November, 2001, the Brussels Meeting in December, 2001 and the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan held in January this year.

In order to establish democracy in Afghanistan and found a lasting peaceful nation, the success of Loya Jirga is imperative. Japan will extend continued assistance to make Loya Jirga successful.

Concerning the forthcoming ELJ, Japan has decided to contribute 27 million dollars for the procurement of equipment and materials necessary for selecting ELJ participants and for the air transport of ELJ special commission members and UN monitors. In addition, some experts will be sent to help prepare for the ELJ process.

Furthermore, to enable nationwide coverage of ELJ on television, technical assistance together with relevant equipment will be provided by Japan. Broadcasting, both television and radio, is extremely important to promote national reconciliation, strengthen the central government and promote education, etc.

Along with the establishment of AIA television broadcasting was resumed at the station which was built under a Japan’s ODA (official development assistance) program in the 1970s. It is also noteworthy that a number of broadcasting technicians who had been trained under a program provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are now working actively.

Japan will continue to promote, as a top priority on a long-term basis, a set of media infrastructure projects including the provision of equipment and materials to Kabul Television Station and human resources development through technical cooperation, etc.

Domestic Security

Reintegration of Former Combatants

It is estimated that there are nearly seven hundred thousand combatants in Afghanistan. In order to promote the reintegration of these soldiers to society, Japan is considering a “Register for Peace” plan. This plan would launch a range of programs for vocational training and employment promotion for demobilized soldiers through having them register at a government office. For that, Japan has suggested that the AIA set up a Registration Agency of Former Combatants.

Reform of Civilian Police Force

Due to many years of fighting, most cities in Afghanistan are paralyzed and there is growing concern over security. An environment that ensures safety for the lives of people is a prerequisite for reconstruction. Japan has thus begun considering its assistance to civilian police force. Specifically, discussions have centered on the provision of wireless communications equipment and vehicles as well as repairs to police facilities.

Counter-narcotics Issues

Many farmers in Afghanistan make their livelihoods by cultivating poppy, the raw materials of heroin. It has been one of the root causes of global drug problems. The AIA is seeking help from the world, while taking action including the ban on poppy cultivation.

In order to help nation building free from poppy cultivation, Japan is willing to provide necessary assistance for the development of alternative crops through UNDP and other international organizations, while supporting the reinforcement of the capacity to crack down on drug trafficking in and around Afghanistan.

Japan is also ready to develop a project under which to empower the drug control capacity of Afghanistan.

Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ)

Toward Selecting a Head of State and Establishing a Transitional Authority

Loya Jirga is a National Grand Council of Afghanistan, a traditional advisory institution. From November 27 to December 5 last year, representatives of Afghan factions got together in Bonn, Germany and held talks. As a result of discussing a process toward the establishment of a new government and ways to restore security, they agreed on forming an interim authority and other relevant issues.

Based on the agreement, an Afghan interim authority (AIA) started on December 29 last year, with Mr. Hamid Karzai as its Chairman.

The agreement also reached in Bonn states that within the six months following the start of the AIA (by around June)
Domestic Security

Prerequisites for Reconstruction Assistance Enforcement

Landmine Clearance

It is estimated that more than ten million landmines still remain laid in Afghanistan, and fifty to one hundred persons are reportedly injured or killed in a week.

The removal of landmines is not only important from humanitarian standpoints which include daily lives of people and the return of refugees/internally displaced persons (IDPs), but also an urgent prerequisite for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Considering this, Japan has made it one of its priorities to tackle the landmines problem.

On January 18 this year, Japan announced to offer assistance of 192.22 million dollars in total to relevant international organizations and others as part of its Afghan refugees assistance activities. This commitment was reconfirmed by Japan at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan which was held immediately afterward.

It was this assistance that has made possible the restoration of necessary landmine clearance equipment and machines (trucks, 4-wheel drive vehicles, landmine detectors, etc.) that had been destroyed or looted at the time of the military action on Afghanistan by the US, UK and other nations started from October last year. This assistance has also supported the demining activities by UNOCHA, the provision of prostheses to landmine victims and landmine awareness campaigns by

Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance

Assisting Afghan People in Building with Their Own Hands a New, Peaceful Nation

Rebuilding of Local Communities

Reintegration of Refugees/IDPs and Rebuilding of Local Communities

Afghan refugees, whose number is said to be 3.3 million last year, are now rapidly returning to Afghanistan. In addition, it has over one million IDPs and as many as seven hundred thousand combatants. In this view, it is an absolute necessity to generate enough livelihoods for them. In order to help them work as members for renewed nation building.

In collaboration with UNDP that strives to produce employment for refugees, Japan planned for the "Recovery and Employment for Afghanistan Programme," known as REAP, and contributed three million dollars. The opening of the project was celebrated in Kabul on March 31 this year.

Even during the rule of the Taliban regime when the return of refugees was difficult, Japan actively supported the Azula Project promoted by international organizations including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This Project was made for the purpose of rehabilitating at certain specific districts, local communities with living environment that would enable returnees to live self-sufficiently. It was a great success with over one hundred thousand refugees returned voluntarily.

The future expansion of the REAP and the Azula Project is currently under consideration.
Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance
Assisting Afghan People in Building with Their Own Hands a New, Peaceful Nation

Human Resources Development

Education
'Human resources building is the very foundation of nation building,' was the notion that has made Japan consistently placing education at the top of its priority list since the Meiji Restoration in the 1860s. Indeed, Japan believes that education is the basis for development.

Japan made a contribution of five million dollars to the 'Back to School Campaign' via the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). In addition, a significant amount of fund raised from Japanese citizens through the Japan Committee for UNICEF is also serving the campaign, while eleven members of six Japanese NGOs are working actively in the field of Afghanistan for this program.

These contributions and efforts have made possible the provision of educational materials as well as repairs of school facilities. As a result, about 1.5 million children went back to school in March this year.

In addition, Japan has been providing assistance needed to repair damaged school facilities. And on April 13 this year, the opening ceremony was held at a girls' elementary school in Kabul, to which Japan had provided assistance for the repair.

Furthermore, Japan will continue to dispatch experts such as policy formulation advisors and will accept Afghan trainees.

Health- and Medical-care
Medical facilities in Afghanistan have been ravaged. Medical equipment/supplies are scarce, and there is a lack of doctors and nurses. The supply of safe water is also limited. Afghanistan has been designated by UNICEF and WHO as a priority country for the eradication of polio. In March this year, Japan, on a request from the AFA, made an approx. fifteen million dollars contribution for the purchase of basic medical equipment/supplies.

One in four Afghan children dies before the age of five years calling for extremely urgent measures to be taken against the infectious diseases of measles and polio, the main causes of death for Afghan children. In February, Japan made a contribution of approx. 606 million dollars grant aid for the "Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children" promoted by UNICEF, which procures vaccines, injectors, and other materials necessary for measles and polio vaccinations.

This program will enable about eight million Afghan children vaccinated against measles and over five million against polio.

Japan will, further, continue to dispatch experts such as policy formulation advisors in the field of health- and medical-care and to accept trainees in Japan.

Improvement of Infrastructure
Socio-economic infrastructure in Afghanistan including facilities for transportation, power generation, communications, water supply, etc. has been devastated. In fact everything must be rebuilt "from ground up" (Chairman Karzai).

Beginning with a study to help construct a public transportation system for the citizens of Kabul, Japan will also conduct a study of city planning for the southwestern area of Kabul as well as a public transportation network plan for the city.
Consideration to Gender Issues

Under the rule of the Taliban regime, Afghan women were denied access to education and employment. For nation building, however, women's participation in society is indispensable.

Making the empowerment of women a top priority, Japan will give full considerations to gender issues in any undertaking of reconstruction and humanitarian assistance. For that purpose, Japan will continue to dispatch experts on gender issues to the Ministry of Women's Affairs to help Afghan people's efforts on these issues. Meanwhile, Japan will assist establishing the groundwork to promote women's participation in society, through a set of support programs to enhance the self-reliance of women such as training of women teachers and will repair elementary, junior and high schools for girls as emergency assistance.

In February this year, the Cabinet Office of Japan set up "Council on Support for Afghan Women," and a wide range of concrete programs such as the raising of women's status, their societal participation, have been under discussion.

Closer Partnerships with NGOs

Within the framework of "Japan Platform" and under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects, Japan supports NGOs' activities in Afghanistan. The "Japan Platform", a new system to provide emergency relief through an equal partnership of NGOs, business and government hosted the "NGO Conference in Tokyo on the Reconstruction of Afghanistan" in December 2001, inviting a number of Afghan NGOs. The participants exchanged opinions on reconstruction activities at a grass-roots level. It was also within the framework of the Japan Platform that Japan's NGOs have been actively implementing emergency humanitarian assistance to refugees/IDPs in Afghanistan by making use of an initial fund provided by the Government.

On April 25 this year, Foreign Minister Kawaguchi held talks with Japanese NGOs engaged in support activities in Afghanistan, and on the same day she co-hosted with UNDP a symposium on "Present Situation and Challenges of Japanese Assistance to Afghanistan." At the symposium in which NGOs took part, their activities in the field were reported.

So far partnership between the government and NGOs has been focused on the field of humanitarian assistance. In the future, however, closer collaboration in wider fields will be needed in order to enhance and encourage reconstruction activities in Afghanistan.