

Chapter 2 Japan Responds to Trust



A Japanese supervisor and a Vietnamese technician check the progress of work on the “Cai Mep-Thi Vai International Port Construction Project” in Vietnam (Photo: Koji Sato/JICA)

Section 1

Faithful Execution of International Commitments

To respond to the trust shown toward Japan from countries around the world, Japan must overcome the recent earthquake, proactively and with unwavering determination fulfill its role in establishing peace and stability in the international community, and faithfully implement its international commitments.

It is the responsibility of the international community to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and to create a world in which everyone can live with human dignity. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established to strengthen those efforts, with concrete numerical goals and deadlines for achieving those goals. (See the figure on page 10 for details regarding MDGs.) They are the first development goals for the entire international community that the heads

of state and Governments pledged to achieve. A higher level of effort is required for the international community to meet the 2015 MDGs deadline, and Japan itself is also actively contributing to such an effort. At the UN Summit on the MDGs in September 2010, Prime Minister Kan announced the “Kan Commitment” to provide \$5.0 billion in assistance in the field of health and \$3.5 billion in assistance in the field of education over five years beginning in 2011. Further, Japan hosted the MDGs Follow-up Meeting in Tokyo on June 2 and 3, 2011, where a variety of representatives from developing nations, civil society, and the private sector, and other related parties held lively discussions regarding genuinely effective approaches to achieve the MDGs. At the meeting, Prime

Minister Kan expressed his determination to faithfully implement the international commitments Japan had made, including the “Kan Commitment.”

Japan is also working proactively in the Africa region, where delays in the progress of the MDGs have been pointed out. At the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-IV) held in 2008, The Government of Japan pledged to double its annual amount of ODA to Africa -the average amount of US\$0.9 billion per year during 2003-2007- to a target of US\$1.8 billion by 2012. Japan’s ODA for Africa was \$1.75 billion in 2008 and \$1.68 billion in 2009, but in 2010 it reached \$2.05 billion, achieving the monetary commitment in 2010. At the Third TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting in Senegal in May 2011 as well, Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeaki Matsumoto announced Japan’s determination to overcome the great earthquake and continue faithfully to implement the comprehensive pledges made at TICAD IV, receiving high praise from African countries. (See the figure on page 116 for details regarding TICAD.)

Stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan is the key to anti-terror measures, and is extremely important not only to those countries and the surrounding regions, but to the peace and stability of the international community as well. In November 2009, in an effort to prevent Afghanistan from once again becoming a hotbed of terrorism, Japan

determined to provide assistance up to an amount in the region of \$5 billion in about five years from 2009. Since then, approximately \$1.78 billion in support has been provided, on the pillars of (1) improving the ability to ensure security, (2) reintegrating former soldiers into society, and (3) development.² The support and solidarity shown by the people and government of Afghanistan after the earthquake³ show that Japan’s support has earned high praise not only in the international community, but locally as well, and that trust has been fostered.

In the case of Pakistan, in November 2009, Japan announced its intention to swiftly implement the pledge of assistance up to \$1 billion in two years in April of that year at the Pakistan Donors Conference. Japan’s aid has already exceeded \$1 billion, including on energy, infrastructure, and other areas, as well as for assistance with the damage from flooding in 2010. (See page 96, 97 for details regarding Afghanistan and Pakistan.)

Since many Japanese companies operate in the ASEAN region, improvement of the trade and investment environment and enhancement of the connectivity in the region are important to boost the ASEAN economy as well as the Japanese economy. In addition, Japan hosted the first Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in Tokyo in November 2009 and announced that it would strengthen efforts on the three pillars of (1) comprehensive development in the Mekong Region, (2) construction of a society that values human dignity, and (3) expansion of cooperation and exchange. Japan announced that it would provide ODA of more than 500 billion yen over the subsequent three years to address these issues, and is making continuous efforts.



A doctor examines a girl in Afghanistan (Photo: Sayad Jan Sabawoon/JICA)

Note 2: Actual aid provided from January 2009 through December 2011. Total aid provided beginning in January 2001: approximately \$3.25 billion

Note 3: Aid and sympathy donations from Afghanistan in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

- The governments of Afghanistan, Kandahar City, and Kabul City announced the donation of a total of approximately \$1.25 million. In addition, on May 20, Ambassador Sayed M. Amin Fatimie made a courtesy call to victims that had been evacuated to Tsukuba City in Ibaraki Prefecture, and delivered gifts of household goods.
- On March 13, President Karzai and other government officials visited the Japanese embassy in Afghanistan to sign a book of condolences, and once again expressed their gratitude for support from Japan.
- Residents of Bamiyan and Chagcharan City in Ghor Province, as well as other areas, held rallies to show their support for the victims and their solidarity with Japan. The UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) office also received many requests to convey encouragement and condolences to Japan.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.
- Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.



Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.



Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education.



Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two-thirds the under-five the mortality rate.



Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.



Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

- Have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.



Ensure environmental sustainability

- Halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.



Develop a global partnership for development

- In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

MDGs are shared goals in the international community, and the MDGs should be achieved by 2015. They consist of a single, shared framework that integrates the international development goals adopted at major international conferences and summits in the 1990s, in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted at the United Nations Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000. The eight MDGs break down into 21 quantifiable targets that are measured by 60 indicators. The deadline for achievement of the Goals is 2015, with 1990 as the benchmark year.

Improved items

- Halving absolute poverty worldwide is in sight to a certain degree.
- Total number of out-of-school children has been reduced.
- Equality in the male-female school enrollment ratio is increasing.
- Child mortality is decreasing.
- The spread of HIV/AIDS has settled in most regions.
- The disparities between urban and rural areas in the availability of safe drinking water have decreased.

Remaining issues

- Hunger increased dramatically in 2009 due to the impact of food and financial crises.
- One-fourth of children under the age of five in developing countries are underweight.
- Achievement of universal primary education by 2015 is unlikely.
- Hundreds of thousands of women die each year during pregnancy or childbirth.
- Half of the population of developing countries (2.6 billion people) have no access to suitable sanitation.

Further efforts by the international community are needed.

* The eight MDGs logos were created by NPO Global Call to Action against Poverty



Children snuggle up to their mother in Bolivia (Photo: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)



Girls attending an elementary school in rural Syria (Photo: Katsuaki Takahashi)

Section 2

Giving Form to Our Responsibilities as a Member of the International Community

Japan must also proactively contribute to resolving the important impending issues that the international community is now facing. Specifically, Japan will continue to provide support for self-help efforts toward a stable transition and domestic reforms in the Middle East and North Africa, collaborate with international organizations for emergency/humanitarian aid in response to conflict/disasters, give seamless support for the peace-building process that takes into consideration the vulnerability of developing countries, and make other proactive contributions to the international community in the future as well.

The Middle East and North Africa hold extremely important positions in guaranteeing the security of Japan's energy. Those regions were already dealing with issues such as Middle East peace process, the Iranian nuclear problem, and measures to combat poverty and terrorism, and since December 2010, beginning in Tunisia, there have been large-scale protests by the citizens of countries and areas within the region. In particular, the enormous protests have brought down long-term governments in Egypt and Tunisia, opening the way for a democratic political process. In these and other ways, the Middle East and North Africa are heading into a truly historic period of transformation. However, reforms and transitions to new systems have only just begun in the countries of the



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Kazuyuki Hamada observes Tunisia's first National Constituent Assembly election after the revolution

Middle East and North Africa. With the brash demands of the masses, particularly young people, the governments must not only deal with "democratization of political systems," but must also overcome many economic and social problems (high unemployment, rising food prices, the widening gap between the rich and poor, etc.) in the future as well. For the countries in the region, the future will bring them a moment of truth. Achieving domestic reforms and transition to new systems in a stable manner is also extremely important for establishing peace and stability in this region and in ensuring human security. (See the figure on page 32) This will require a higher degree of assistance from the international community. From this standpoint, at the G8 Deauville Summit held in May 2011, the heads of state of each G8 country referred to the reform movements occurring in the region as the "Arab Spring," and have designated it as a top-priority world issue, reconfirming the need for assistance. Further, at the Summit, Prime Minister Kan announced that Japan also intended to cooperate with the international community to respond to the reform movements, and while taking into consideration Japan's experience in contributing to growth and stability in Asia, also utilize collaboration between the public and private sectors to proactively aid the self-help efforts of each country toward transitioning to new systems and implementing domestic reforms in the region in a stable manner. Prime Minister Kan indicated that Japan's policy would focus on the three



The Japan Disaster Relief Rescue Team conducts a search in New Zealand (Photo: JICA)

pillars of (1) fair political process and government, (2) human resource development, and (3) job creation/fostering of industries, as well as (4) economic diplomacy including the promotion of trade and investment, and (5) forging people-to-people relations and dialogue. As a major member of the international community, Japan must steadily fulfill such promises to the international community in the future as well, and quickly give form to the aid and support described above.

As one of its efforts related to emergency humanitarian aid, Japan has proactively worked toward “human security” (the concept of integrating and enhancing people-centered efforts to protect people from a wide range of serious threats to human life, livelihood, and dignity, and to achieve the abundant potential of individuals) as one of the pillars of its foreign policy. In particular, prompt and effective humanitarian aid that meets the needs of the victims is of the utmost importance when a natural disaster occurs. To accomplish this, Japan expeditiously dispatches the Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR) for lifesaving efforts, provide emergency relief goods, and give effective emergency aid in combination with support through international organizations.

For example, the earthquake that occurred in Christchurch, New Zealand in February 2011 caused enormous damage, and resulted in a large number of victims, including Japanese. Immediately following the earthquake, Japan also dispatched the JDR Search and



Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Ryuji Yamane inspects the site of “The Project for Management Capacity Enhancement of Southern Sudan Urban Water Corporation” that Japan is conducting in South Sudan

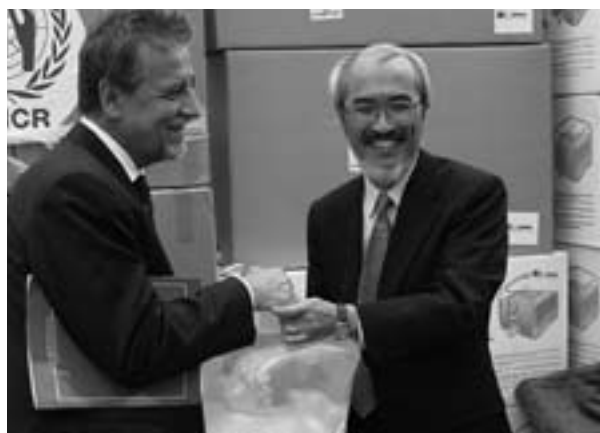
Rescue Team and provided other assistance to conduct diligent search and rescue efforts.

In addition, dispatch of the JDR Medical Team and Self-Defense Force unit to assist after the earthquake in Haiti and flood in Pakistan, and other contributions that Japan has made in the past, have garnered high praise in each country.

Further, for refugees and internally displaced people resulting from conflict and other problems in vulnerable countries in Africa and other regions, children who have lost their parents and are hurt, and people who are facing serious food shortages, etc., Japan strives not only to provide emergency aid but also to seamlessly implement support for quick recovery and provide development assistance toward establishing medium and long-term stability and development in society, and to prevent the



A Japanese relief team member and a girl smiling after receiving treatment following the Haitian earthquake (Photo: JICA)



Japan provided emergency relief goods through UNHCR to aid the victims of drought in the Horn of Africa region. Here, the Chief Representative of JICA Kenya office delivers polyethylene tanks to UNHCR. (Photo: JICA)