

Reconstruction Diplomacy and ODA

Chapter 3



Residents, municipal staff members and a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer work together on a community disaster prevention map in El Salvador as part of the “Project on Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management in Central America “BOSAI”” (Photo: JICA)

Section 1

Sharing Recovery of Affected Areas and Disaster Prevention Measures with the World

To contribute to the peace and stability of the international community as much as, or even more, than in the past, Japan must of course faithfully keep the international commitments that it has already made, but it is also important that Japan shares with the world the lessons that have been learned based on the experience and knowledge gained from the Great East Japan Earthquake. In addition, Japan must also mobilize the knowledge, experience, and vitality possessed by countries overseas as it works toward the recovery and reconstruction of the affected areas in Tohoku. As Japan moves ahead with these measures, ODA is expected to fulfill a significant role.

The recommendations of the Reconstruction Design Council in Response to the Great East Japan Earthquake, issued on June 25 as “Towards Reconstruction: Hope Beyond the Disaster,” establish four pillars for recovery, one of which is “open reconstruction,” referring to the

belief that “our nation must strengthen its bonds with the international community, and aim for reconstruction that is open to the world, rather than inward-looking.” In that context, “it is necessary to share the lessons Japan has learned from this experience with other countries, making them international public property. Japan has a duty to proactively contribute to the international community in the areas of disaster prevention and reduction in this manner in the future. Japan should utilize the lessons learned during the recovery and reconstruction process, and proactively promote international cooperation that values the bonds between people, through activities such as the development of human resources in developing countries in Asia and other regions.

Reflecting these recommendations into consideration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will, in cooperation with JICA, promote international cooperation that values the

bonds between people as indicated in the FY2011 Priority Policy Issues for International Cooperation released on June 27. Specifically, in addition to sharing administrative experiences, Japan will expand its support for the communication of knowledge and experience related to disaster response, including measures to prevent disasters caused by earthquakes and tsunamis, and the activities of disaster relief teams, in order to share the experiences and the lessons that Japan has learned from the earthquake. Japan proposed to set up a “Disaster Management Network for the ASEAN Region” at the Japan-ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in July 2011. Further, Japan intends to contribute in the area of offering and sharing of scholarly research among the international community related to the prevention of tsunami-related disasters.⁴

To continue leading the way in global cooperation to prevent disasters, Japan also aims to host the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (expected to be held in 2015). In addition, Japan will host a high-level international conference that also serves as preparation for the World Conference, and share its experiences and lessons from the large-scale disasters that occur frequently around the world.

Further, Japan will utilize ODA to proactively provide developing countries with goods produced in the affected areas as part of its aid to the developing countries and contribution to the recovery of the affected areas, while taking into consideration the desires of those countries. Moreover, Japan will actively promote inspection of affected areas by foreign trainees, etc., to facilitate the transmission of accurate information, as part



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiyuki Kato meets with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers who had returned from overseas locations, at a ceremony to present letters of appreciation from the Minister for Foreign Affairs

of measures to combat rumors. In addition, Japan will promote the acceptance of foreign trainees, etc., in the affected areas, while giving sufficient consideration to local circumstances. Japan’s policy is to implement these measures to support the industries in the affected areas and to contribute to the economy of those areas.

Further, Japan must utilize the knowledge and experience of Japanese experts involved in international cooperation in the recovery and reconstruction process. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA provided assistance to the activities of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) beginning immediately after the earthquake occurred. Moreover, veteran Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and many NGOs engaged in international cooperation utilized the knowledge and experience they had gained by aiding developing countries to support the operation of evacuation centers and to assist victims in the affected areas. In the future, Japan will continue to cooperate to ensure that the knowledge and experience related to conflict and disaster relief and reconstruction assistance possessed by Japan's NGOs, veteran JOCVs, and development consultants, are fully utilized in reconstruction efforts.

Through such measures, Japan intends to effectively utilize ODA for open reconstruction with integrated partnership of the public and private sectors.



Trainees from various countries engaged in joint firefighting training with members of a fire department in Fukuoka Prefecture (Photo: Kenshiro Imamura/JICA)

Note 4: JICA collaborated with the Tohoku University Disaster Control Research Center to implement the research project “Considering Effective Approaches to Earthquakes and Tsunamis.” Japan is gaining an understanding of the analysis of the damage from the earthquake and tsunami, the response to the emergency, and the review of the disaster prevention plan, and is again considering JICA’s thematic guidelines “Disaster Prevention” in accordance with the experiences and lessons of the major earthquake.

Section 2

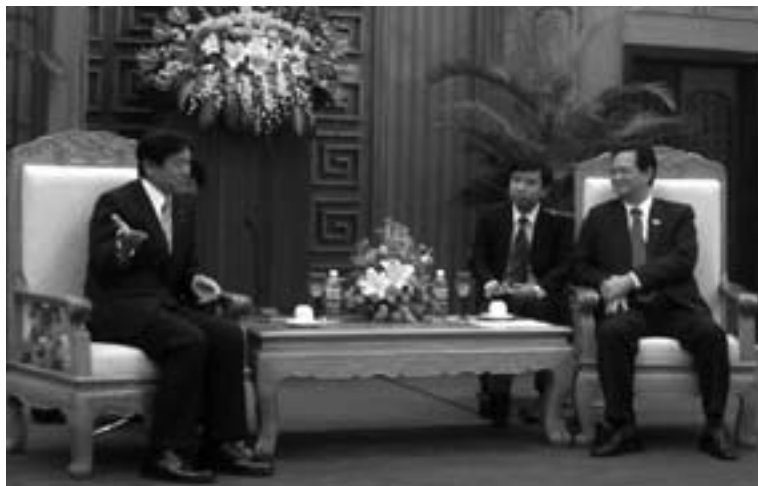
Japanese Economic Recovery through Aid to Developing Countries

To rebound and recover from the Great East Japan Earthquake as soon as possible, it is extremely important that Japan's public and private sectors unite in "open reconstruction," while cooperating with the international community as well, as also has been indicated in the "Basic Guidelines for Reconstruction." In addition to the top priority of contributing directly to recovery and disaster prevention measures in the affected areas, the 2011 Priority Policies in International Cooperation (announced June 2011) stipulate the utilization of assistance to developing countries to contribute to strong economic growth that will support Japan's recovery and reconstruction.

For example, when using ODA to assist in the overseas deployment of infrastructure by Japan's private businesses, Japan will proactively utilize its infrastructure technology, which is strong against disasters, in the ODA projects. Specifically, the improvement of a business environment (airports, ports, roads, networks), etc., that is a prerequisite for setting up overseas operations by Japanese private businesses, is mainly handled through yen loans, but grant aid is also used for preparation and maintenance of the peripheral infrastructure and for infrastructure aid as models. At such times, Japan will actively utilize technical cooperation to support the reshaping of legal systems and to promote the improvement of the environment through development of human resources, so that the excellence of Japan's quake resistance and other standards and systems will be recognized, and those standards and systems will be accepted in developing countries as well.

In addition, taking into consideration an increased emphasis on renewable energy and energy conservation in energy policy immediately after the earthquake, Japan will promote its advanced energy conservation and environmental technologies through ODA. This is part of Japan's contribution to the promotion of measures to combat climate change and to achieve green growth. Overseas deployment of such technologies is also a significant business opportunity for the private sector as well.

Moreover, in addition to promoting improvement of the environment for the activities of Japanese companies in developing countries that will support Japan's recovery and reconstruction, Japan assists the enhancement⁷ of



Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi meets with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in Vietnam

ASEAN connectivity⁵, where many Japanese companies operate⁶. Revitalization of trade, investment, and other private sector activities is vital to the sustained economic growth of developing countries. In addition to improvement of the infrastructure in developing countries in both the equipment and facilities aspect and the knowledge and expertise aspect, Japan will engage in support for streamlining of the systems related to trade and investment and the development of human resources, and improvement of governmental organization systems and capacity related to intellectual property protection, competition policy, etc., measures to combat degradation of the urban environment and infectious diseases, etc., thereby providing assistance in overcoming the obstacles to growth.

Finally, foreseeing an increase in demand for natural resources and energy required for recovery in the future, Japan will actively use ODA to promote the securing of a safe supply of natural resources, energy, and food, and the diversification of supply sources, while taking into consideration the basic policy for providing aid to the relevant countries. In other words, in addition to striving for stable development of countries exporting natural resources and food and the surrounding regions, Japan will build comprehensive and strategic relationships with those countries. In addition, Japan will provide assistance for the stable development and strengthening of abilities of coastal countries in order to ensure the security of Japan's sea lanes. Further, while giving appropriate consideration to the environment, Japan will promote cooperation with developing countries for the supply of energy.

Note 5: Enhancing connectivity in ASEAN refers to three things: "Physical connectivity," such as transportation, telecommunications, and energy networks, "Institutional connectivity," such as trade, investment, and liberalization/facilitation of services, and "People-to-people connectivity," such as tourism, education, and culture. (See the diagram on the next page.)

Note 6: It is necessary to consider a mechanism to mobilize aid funding from the private sector utilizing the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), etc., in addition to ODA.

Under this policy, starting from FY2011, Japan is conducting research for the formulation of aid packages, and conducting activities such as implementing measures to support the improvement of the trade and investment environment and legal systems and encouraging the spread of energy conservation and environmental technologies.

In the investigation for the formulation of aid packages, Japan formulates aid packages to strengthen the function for comprehensive and strategic implementation of activities, from plan formulation to implementation, related to the overseas deployment of Japan's infrastructure technologies (water and sewer systems, electric power, motorways, railways, information and telecommunications, etc.), and verifies test activities in some cases.

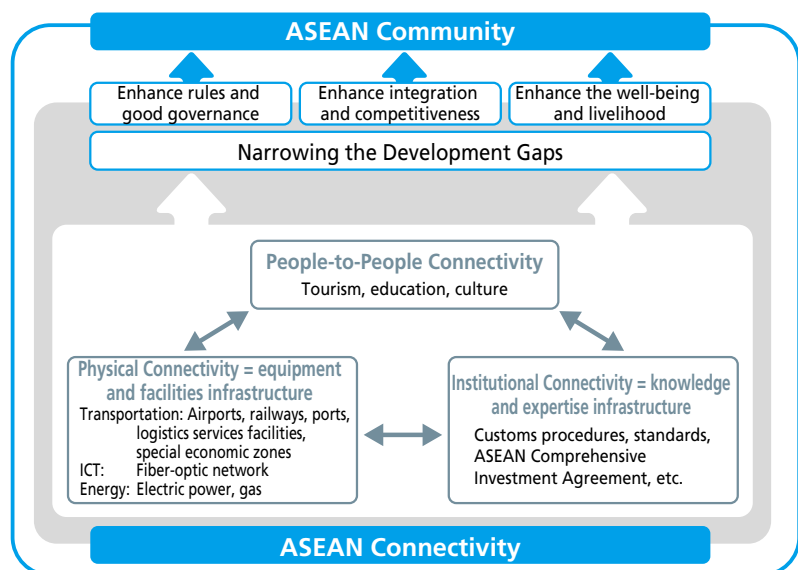
Further, in Japan's assistance for improvement of the trade and investment environment and the legal system, Japan provides assistance for the reform of civil law, improvement of transparency in investment laws and the resolution of civil disputes, improvement of the level of customs clearance procedures, and enactment of intellectual property rights protection legislation, etc., to make it possible to establish a system that enables smooth operation of corporate activities and to provide a business environment that is favorable to private businesses in developing countries in Asia and other regions.

To encourage the spread of energy

conservation and environmental technology, Japan assists in the formulation of policy, the building of systems of implementation, and the development of human resources to enable the formulation of energy conservation strategy and basic plans, as well as the implementation and promotion of the spread of energy conservation, in the public sector and the industrial sector, etc.

Through these efforts, Japan will provide aid to developing countries in the future as well, while contributing the Japan's economic recovery at the same time.

Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity

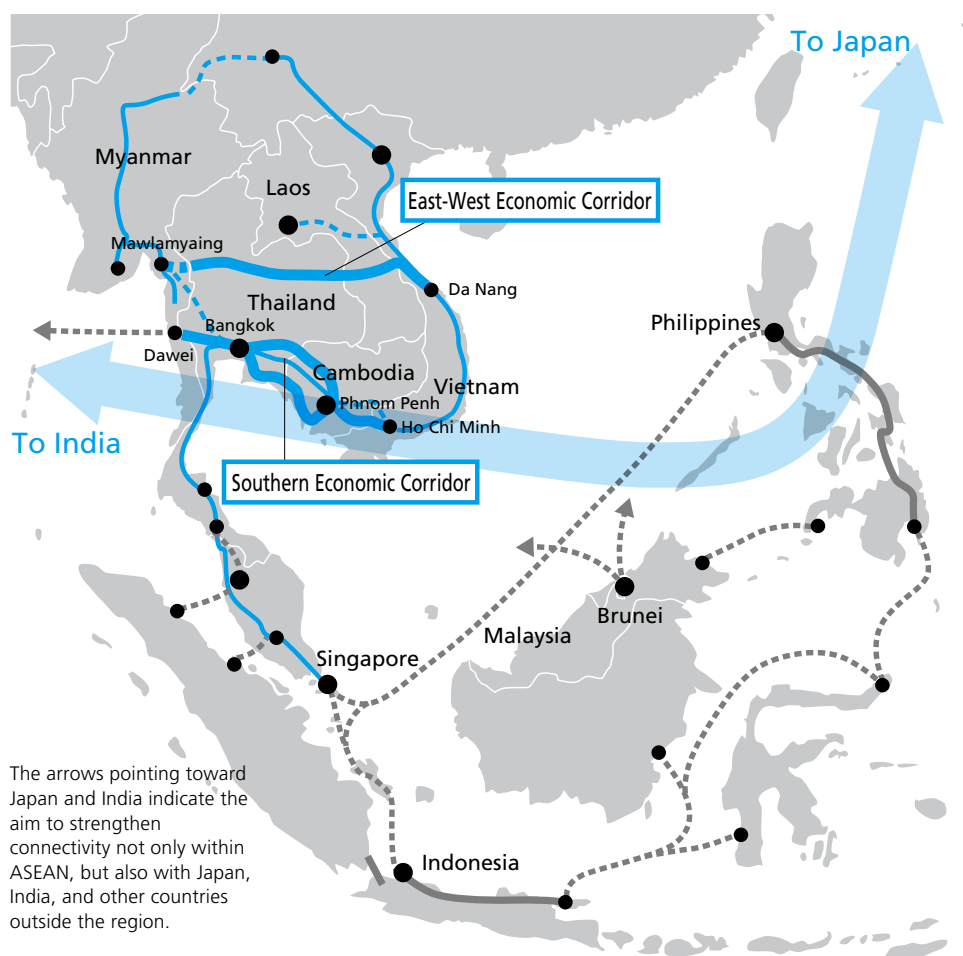


The Master Plan to enhance connectivity in an effort to build an ASEAN community by 2015. adopted in October 2010 at ASEAN Summit.



The Cai Mep Port construction site that is part of "the Cai Mep-Thi Vai International Port Construction Project" in Vietnam (Photo: Koji Sato/JICA)

Overall image of Japan's support for ASEAN Connectivity (equipment and facilities infrastructure)



Land corridors

Land corridors	Under construction
East-West Economic Corridor	Connects Da Nang and Mawlamyaing.
Southern Economic Corridor	Connects Ho Chi Minh and Dawei.
Improvement of highways, international bridges, motorways, ports, etc.	

Ocean corridors

Ocean corridors	Improvement required
Connects the major cities of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines.	
Improvement of ports, industrial development around ports, energy, ICT improvement, etc.	



The site of "Sihanoukville Port Special Economic Zone Development Project" to construct Cambodia's only deep-water port facing the open sea



At a tollbooth for the Saigon River Tunnel that is part of the "Saigon East-West Highway Construction Project" in Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City) (Photo: Koji Sato/JICA)

Terminology

* Economic Corridor

Refers to the group of projects that include not only the aspects of the equipment and facilities infrastructure such as development of roads, bridges, but also the aspects of the knowledge and expertise infrastructure such as simplification of customs clearance procedures, and that are intended to extend the benefits of development to the growth of industry along the corridor and the improvement of the lives of the people. The aim is to revitalize the economy through the overall improvement of the distribution infrastructure in this manner to increase the amount of transportation between regions. Specific examples include the East-West Economic Corridor that connects the regions of the Mekong, from Myanmar through Thailand, then to Laos and Vietnam, and the Southern Economic Corridor, that extends from Bangkok, Thailand through Cambodia, and to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.