

Chapter 1 ODA for Moving Forward Together



JOCV member fertilizing rice plants with farmers in Burkina Faso (rice cropping, edible crops sector). Providing technical guidance to agricultural extension workers and rice-growing farmers, efforts are made toward poverty reduction by increasing rice yields. (Photo: Akio Iizuka/JICA)

Section 1

ODA for Achieving a Free, Prosperous, and Stable International Community – Assistance for democratization and national reconciliation

With sweeping changes including the rapid development of globalization and the widespread use of information technology as a background, the pursuit of freedom and democracy continues to move forward in nations around the world. In the Arab world, a wave of large-scale citizens' demonstrations beginning in December 2010 in Tunisia were held throughout the Middle East and North Africa, leading to the collapse of long-standing dictatorships one after the other (also known as the Arab Spring). Currently in these nations, efforts are continuing towards the development of an even more democratic system. In Asia, tangible progress towards democratization

and the stabilization of democracy can be seen in countries such as Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan. In Africa as well, countries including Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire have broken loose from civil war and domestic unrest, with some countries making steady progress in building democratic nations.

Japan has also been actively supporting the democratization and national reconciliation of developing countries through ODA. However, based on new changes in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, it is necessary to bolster assistance for the countries that have begun work anew in nation-building as they move toward democratization. A democratic system

encourages citizens to participate in politics and development, and is an essential framework for creating an environment in which the full potential of each and every citizen can be realized. Such a structure is also important in promoting the development and stability of a long-term state. Additionally, amidst these large changes in the global environment, expanding support for countries that share strategic interests and the universal values of freedom and democracy with Japan is crucial in attaining a free, prosperous, and stable international community with the goal of securing peace and stability in developing countries.

In the following paragraphs, specific examples of Japanese assistance for countries working towards democratization and national reconciliation will be introduced.

In Myanmar, democratization, national reconciliation, and economic reforms have been progressing at a rapid pace since the establishment of the Thein Sein administration in March 2011. In line with this move, the Japanese government revised its policy for economic cooperation with Myanmar in April 2012, and decided to strengthen cooperation and expand its areas of support, which had thus far been limited to areas pertaining to basic human needs (BHN) in order to allow more citizens to gain a solid sense of the results of these reforms by firm establishment of democracy through supporting their efforts. Also, an agreement was reached regarding the

course for clearing its arrears in a comprehensive way as a precondition for fully resuming aid. In October of 2012, the Meeting on Myanmar in Tokyo was held, with Japan leading the international community. As a result, Myanmar was able to clear its overdue debts to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Japan in January 2013 through the use of bridge loans provided for debt relief. Subsequently, ODA loan from Japan was resumed after a 26-year hiatus, and full assistance from the World Bank and ADB was also restarted after a 30-year gap.

While carefully watching the direction of Myanmar reforms, the Japanese government plans to provide further, well-balanced assistance. This will include aid for improving the lives of Myanmar's people in areas such as agriculture, health, and education, which will also support poverty reduction. Assistance will also be offered for ethnic minorities (See ODA Topics, page 5) and for capacity building and for the development and improvement of systems. Additional needs within infrastructure will be assessed for promoting economic growth.

In the Philippines, a conflict has continued over a span of 40 years on the southern island of Mindanao between the government and Islamic rebel groups. Believing that peace in Mindanao is essential for the stable development of the Philippines, Japan has actively contributed to the peace process in the area and has dispatched development experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency



"A new school in the village" exclaim the happy indigenous children of Mindanao. (Photo: International Children's Action Network (ICAN))

(JICA) to the International Monitoring Team (IMT) which includes representatives from Malaysia, etc. Past experts have travelled around the areas that are dangerous and difficult to access in order to study what type of assistance is needed. This has subsequently led to the provision of aid for constructing elementary schools, wells, health care centers, and vocational training centers. These efforts form the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development, abbreviated as J-BIRD. (The Islamic rebel group members refer to themselves as “Bangsamoro.”) Having been well received by local residents and the Government of the Philippines, these initiatives play a large role in developing an environment for peace.

Japan participated as an observer in peace talks between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). With Japan as mediator, the first meeting between group heads was held in August 2011, with President Aquino and the MILF Chairman Murad meeting in Narita. In October of the following year, the Government of the Philippines and the MILF signed a framework agreement, bringing the parties much closer to peace. President Aquino stated that the trust built with the MILF at the Narita meeting was monumental in paving the road to this agreement.

In order that true peace can be attained in Mindanao, and in anticipation of the subsequent period, Japan plans to follow a policy of continuing to provide various types of assistance for improving the systems and capacity building of administrative officials.

Support for democratization and national reconciliation does not stop in Asia. The 2011 secession and independence

of South Sudan is still fresh in our memory. After gaining independence through a referendum, South Sudan still bear the scars of its civil war. Numerous problems remain, which include the social reintegration of former combatants, repatriation of South Sudanese living in Sudan, collecting scattered weapons and clearing landmines, and the reconstruction and development of the socio-economic infrastructure that was destroyed. Under these circumstances, Japan is providing assistance to South Sudan for nation-building, with an emphasis on strengthening governance and developing infrastructure, in addition to basic human needs. (See *Peacebuilding*, page 107)

In the West African nation of Liberia, civil war has continued for many years, but as a result of intervention from the international community, presidential and general elections were held in 2005 with cooperation from the United Nations Mission in Liberia. In January of the following year, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became the first democratically-elected female African head of state. Under the leadership of this president, nation-building has progressed steadily in Liberia. In the first general/presidential election held by the National Elections Commission since the end of the civil war, President Sirleaf was reelected in 2011. At that time, Japan contributed to the implementation of a fair and peaceful election by providing election-related supplies with Grant Aid through the UNDP and dispatching personnel as election observers. Japan continues to assist Liberia in nation-building and stabilization through food aid and infrastructure development, and supports their efforts in promoting the consolidation of democracy.



People of South Sudan surrounding a well built with humanitarian aid. (Photo: Japan Platform)

Section 2 ODA for Building up Trust in Japan – Growth for poverty reduction

In September 2000, the international community adopted the Millennium Declaration and shared a vision for the world in the 21st century. Based on the Millennium Declaration and some other international development goals adopted at major international conferences in the 1990s the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were compiled. MDGs focus on human and social development and include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Economic growth itself is not an objective of the MDGs.

However, looking back on the past dozen years or so, Asian countries especially China, India and some Southeast Asian countries, that have achieved sustained economic growth, have witnessed good progress in the efforts of attaining the MDGs. Japan has been providing assistance to these countries in areas such as health and education, where the poor can benefit directly. In addition to these areas,

Japan has also been providing assistance in manners that directly influence their economic growth, such as supporting infrastructure development, stimulating trade and investment, improving legal systems, developing industry, creating employment opportunities, transferring technology, and promoting human resource development. Economic growth creates the wealth needed for development, and is a major driving force in developing countries. By including the poor in the growth process and sharing the dividends of growth, poverty can be further reduced. Also, inclusive¹ growth which benefits all people will be realized.

Japan also has experience in post-war reconstruction, during which it achieved economic growth by improving infrastructure with finance provided by international organizations, etc. Later, Japan, utilizing its experience, became a donor country and has been providing aid mainly in East Asia. Of course, since the situation in each developing country differs, uniformly applying the same



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung hold a joint press conference in Hanoi. Both leaders agreed to cooperate in the areas of trade, investment, and infrastructure development.

Note 1: “Inclusive” refers to providing opportunities for every individual to participate in a society or an organization on an equal footing with others, while eliminating exclusion and discrimination that occurs due to different social or cultural backgrounds, disabilities and other individual characteristics. In particular, it refers to making participation easier for socially vulnerable people and groups that have been alienated from society.

prescription as East Asia to other countries or regions is not always appropriate. Through efforts employing diverse methods that correspond to the conditions of each country or region, it is crucial to achieve economic growth for poverty reduction.

However, simply pursuing national economic growth and looking at each countries' national average on the economic indicators obscure the disparities that lie behind the growth. The disparities include the gaps between the rich and the poor, urban and rural areas, men and women, and ethnic minorities, etc. There may be a problem that the assistance cannot be delivered to the vulnerable people who are truly in need. In order to avoid this situation, it is necessary to ensure the concept of "equity" by improving conditions for all people, while particularly raising the standards for the most vulnerable. This concept is essential for realizing human security in communities, and these ideas of equity and human security are closely interconnected with each other.

Human security is a central concept for Japan in making efforts towards the achievement of the MDGs. Focusing on individual people who are exposed to various threats such as extreme poverty and infectious diseases, human security promotes building societies where people can attain freedom from fear and want, and live with dignity.

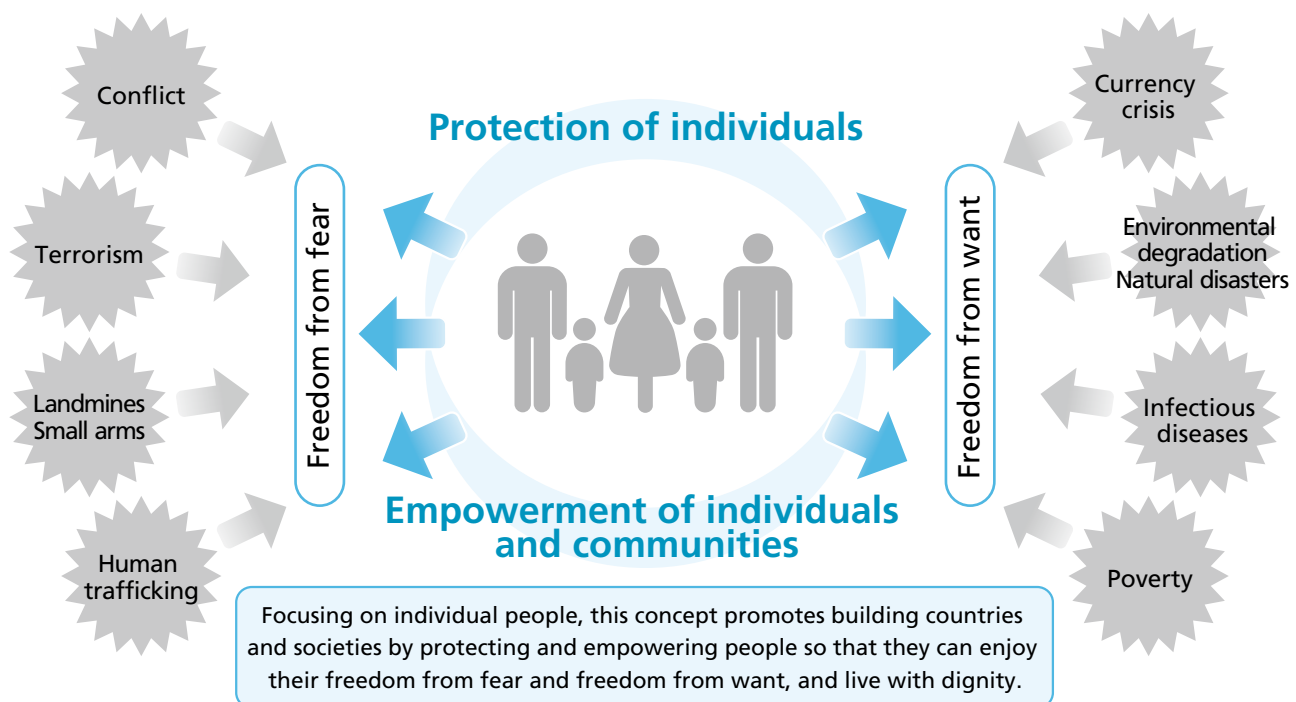
Allowing all people, including the poor, to be mentally

and physically healthy, to receive appropriate education, to develop their potential under equal opportunity, and to be employed and participate in economic activity will lead to the growth of communities and the nation.

Inclusive growth that involves individual people in this way is necessary, as the dividends of growth can be shared and the benefits of development spread over a broad range of people. Based on human security, Japan provides multi-layered assistance that contributes to poverty reduction and inclusive growth. These efforts are meaningful in building up other countries' trust in Japan.

However, even after the deadline for achieving MDGs comes in 2015, there will still be various issues. Now we face the question of what should be done about development goals beyond 2015 (post-2015 development agenda). The aim should be poverty eradication through high-quality economic growth, and the post-2015 development agenda needs to be a framework for forging partnership among various stakeholders who support each other, based on the concepts of equity and human security. Based on the experience of providing assistance and the results of development so far, Japan will further accelerate its efforts towards achieving the MDGs, as well as continue to proactively contribute to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

Concept of "human security"



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 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 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.

The MDGs are shared goals in the international community, which should be achieved by 2015. It is a single, common framework, compiled based on 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 goals break down into more concrete 21 targets that are measured by 60 indicators. The deadline for achievement of the MDGs is 2015, with 1990 set as the benchmark year.

Improved items

- Halving extreme poverty has been achieved in the world as a whole.
- Total number of out-of-school children has been reduced.
- Gender equality in school enrollment ratio for primary and secondary education is close to the achievement.
- Child mortality is decreasing.
- The spread of HIV/AIDS has settled in most regions.
- Halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water has been achieved.

Remaining issues

- Hunger increased dramatically in 2009 due to the impact of food and financial crises.
- One-sixth of children under the age of five in developing countries are underweight.
- Achieving universal primary education by 2015 is unlikely.
- More than 250,000 women die each year in pregnancy or childbirth.
- Half of the population of developing countries (2.6 billion people) have no access to basic sanitation. etc.

Further efforts by the international community are needed.

* The eight MDG logos were designed by NPO Global Call to Action against Poverty



JOCV member (early childhood education) working at a pre-school in Sri Lanka. (Photo: Tomoko Ogura)

Section 3 Various Aspects of Growth through Human Resource Development

Economic growth is not the only type of growth stimulated by aid. Growth in terms of capacity through human resource development helps to cultivate the workforce needed for nation-building. In order for developing countries to grow and support themselves, it is necessary for them to develop and secure good enough human resources who are responsible for their future development. Assistance for human resource development using Japan's ODA has been provided in many regions around the world. This assistance has been conducted in the various areas required for forming the foundations of nation-building such as agriculture, health/medical care, education and vocational training. It has contributed greatly in strengthening the confidence that other countries place in Japan.

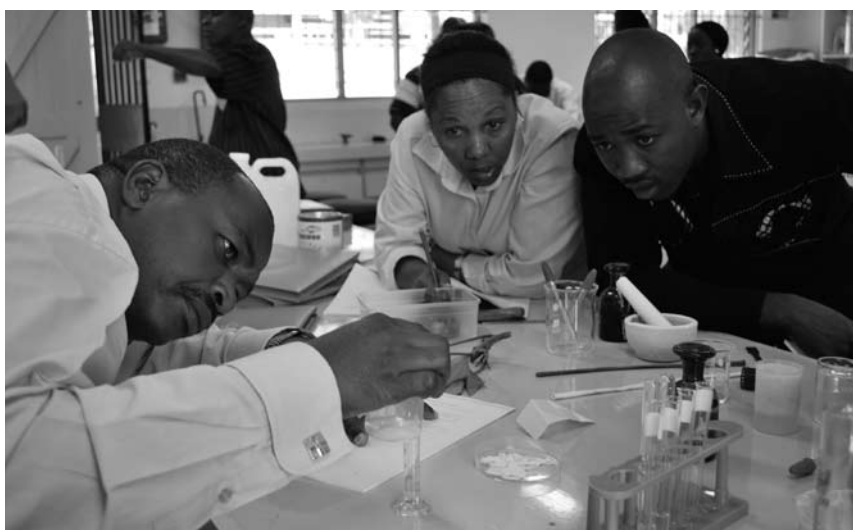
Human resource development cooperation is conducted in an environment of person-to-person communication. In addition to the capacity-building aspects, this type of assistance is also useful in deepening mutual understanding and friendships through its personal interaction.

The following section will introduce a few examples of human resource development assistance by describing specific projects. The first part describes projects in the education area that began in Kenya and spread throughout Africa.

● Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education in Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SMASE-WECSA)

In Africa, there is a pressing need to develop human resources who possess the scientific knowledge and skills needed for industrial growth. However, children's academic ability in mathematics and science is low, and the lack of teaching capabilities of teachers is a large issue. For 10 years beginning in 1998, Japan cooperated with the Kenyan Ministry of Education to implement the Project on Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education, for which training was provided for approximately 20,000 secondary education teachers of mathematics and science in Kenya. As an outcome of the 15-year project, the one-sided, teacher-centered teaching style that did not consider students' learning process was transformed into classes where students can actively and willingly participate. This was achieved by encouraging teachers' initiative and inventive approaches. As a result, students have shown increased motivation to learn and the number of students selecting science-related subjects has risen. Subsequently, it was requested that the efforts started in Kenya be spread to other African countries facing similar issues and in 2001, the

Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education in Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SMASE-WECSA) was established. Through SMASE-WECSA*, Kenya has provided training and technical assistance for building a training system for teachers of mathematics and science in other African countries. From 2003 to 2012, there have been approximately 1,500 people from 30 countries who have participated in the training in Kenya. It is anticipated that these trainees then return to their respective countries and conduct training for many mathematics and science teachers there.



Teachers from various African countries receiving training. These participants will then return to their respective countries to provide training for other teachers in their home countries. (Photo: JICA)

Human resource development is not limited to schools. In Uzbekistan, the Japan Center* was established to highlight Japan's ODA activities and to act as a hub for developing a human network between Uzbekistan and Japan. Here, human resource development for business people is being conducted.

● Uzbekistan-Japan Center for Human Development

Uzbekistan gained independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, upon which it began to transition from a socialist economy to a market economy. However, economic reforms did not progress smoothly. In 2000, Japan established the Uzbekistan-Japan Center for Human Development with the purpose of training the human resources that will lead the transformation of Uzbekistan's market economy and to promote mutual understanding between Japan and Uzbekistan. At the Center, personnel are trained through a business course for young business people. In this course, Japanese business practices are taught, some of which include “5S” (standing for Sort, Straighten, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain, a methodology used in the Japanese manufacturing and service industries for continued improvement of the workplace environment) and “Kaizen” (used mainly by workers on production



Top students of the courses at the Uzbekistan-Japan Center tours a Japanese company in Chiba Prefecture. (Photo: JICA)



Uzbekistan-Japan Center for Human Development (Photo: JICA)

floors in the Japanese manufacturing industry, this method involving the continuous review and improvement of work practices with the goal of increasing quality). Approximately 5,400 people have completed this course thus far (as of July 2012) and more than half of course graduates are heads of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) or middle managers. The opportunity to learn practical business skills in this course has been received favorably, making it so popular that the acceptance rate into the course is 1 to every 2~3 people. Additionally, a completion certificate will not be issued if students do not maintain a constant level of performance and attendance for the course, which is another reason for its good reputation. Currently, assistance is being provided for training local instructors as the Japan Center prepares to become self-reliant. In February 2012, a training session was held in Japan for 19 local teachers from 3 countries in conjunction with the Japan Centers of neighboring Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. In this training session, participants visited Japanese manufacturers (electronics, pharmaceutical), as well as various companies in areas such as trading, food service, distribution, and retailing. They studied practical cases within Japanese companies regarding human resource management, business strategy, and marketing methods. By including many actual examples of Japanese management style, it is expected that the training session will be invaluable for use in courses at the Japan Center.

A project that makes use of Japan's strengths in science and technology is the ASEAN University Network / Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network outlined below. It aims to nurture teaching personnel through academic cooperation throughout the entire region and to create a joint research network.

● ASEAN University Network / Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network

To summarize the ASEAN University Network / Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net), it is a consortium consisting of 19 institutions from 10 ASEAN countries² and 11 universities from Japan that jointly aim to improve the qualifications of teaching personnel in the engineering field and strengthen the networks among the universities. Working towards this goal, 400 professors from the ASEAN side and 200 from the Japan side are involved in creating a human network.

The catalyst for beginning AUN/SEED-Net was the 1997 Asian financial crisis that began in Thailand and gripped many ASEAN nations. In the background of the financial crisis the fragility of industry was pointed out, and the need to increase both the quality and quantity of industrial human resources was recognized. Japan, which has the most companies expanding into ASEAN countries, thus decided

to provide assistance in developing these industrial human resources, and subsequently concluded an agreement with the 10 ASEAN countries.

Excellent teaching staff is crucial to developing excellent industrial human resources. Without high-quality teachers, good human resources are not nurtured. In order to increase the quality of university teaching staff, providing assistance for overseas study to allow them to acquire master's degrees and doctoral degrees is one aim of the project. Thus far, there have been a total of 796 people (masters: 496, doctorate: 300 as of February 2012) who have been given the opportunity to obtain a master's degree or doctorate through this program. The majority of these teachers obtaining degrees have returned to and continued to teach at the universities where they had been employed.



Young teachers who received their degrees at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. (Photo: JICA)



ASEAN students learning together at AUN/SEED-Net. (Photo: JICA)

* Glossary

Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education in Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SMASE-WECSA)

This network was established with the purpose of promoting mathematics and science education in Africa, as well as encouraging collaborative efforts within the region. For this, the improvements made in mathematics and science education through in-service training for teachers in Kenya are shared with other African countries. The network was formed at the first SMASE-WECSA Conference held in Kenya in 2001, with educators from various countries participating (mainly Ministries of Education). There are currently 27 member countries as of the end of 2012. In cooperation with the Kenya Ministry of Education, assistance has been provided for implementing training programs in Kenya for member countries (third country training), as well as technical assistance and experience-sharing workshops.

Japan Center

These facilities were conceived in 1998 as a way to highlight Japan's ODA activities in countries with transitioning economies and to serve as a base for developing human resources and forming human networks between the host countries and Japan. They began to open in succession beginning in 2000. Located primarily in Southeast and Central Asia, 9 centers have been established in 8 countries (Viet Nam (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh), Laos, Cambodia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Ukraine). Their main programs include business courses, Japanese language courses, and programs to promote mutual understanding.

Note 2: ASEAN countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam

With the great changes that have come to our lives through the widespread use of satellite communications and the Internet, the areas in need of international cooperation have expanded from small farming villages to outer space and cyberspace. On our seas as well, new issues for the international community such as maritime terrorism and piracy call for more strategic assistance for developing countries.

1. Cooperation in Outer Space

Assistance for developing countries using space technology takes various forms. Examples of Japan's cooperation include natural disaster management, forest resources management, watershed management, capacity building in analysis and planning, and topographic mapping. Information sent from satellites is useful for disaster risk reduction and environmental protection, as well as human resource development in developing countries. When a disaster strikes, a broad scope of information on weather conditions and damages becomes invaluable for evacuation orders and for recovery activities in the affected regions. Additionally, changes in the vegetation and land area of forests which have impacts on climate change can be grasped quickly through satellites, and this information can be used as reference for policy making.

Examples include the support for Pakistan in 2010 after heavy rain caused the Indus River to overflow, and triggered the worst flood damage in the nation's history. In July 2011, the project for "Strategic Strengthening of Flood Warning and Management Capacity" was implemented in collaboration with UNESCO using Grant Aid for Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction. Through this assistance, a flood forecasting system was introduced, flood hazard maps were created, and training to facilitate these measures was conducted. Additionally, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) assisted the project by providing satellite rainfall data, developing land surface elevation information using ALOS (Advanced Land Observing Satellite) called "Daichi," and mapping the regions that were flooded in 2010. In Pakistan, which is located in the Indus River Basin, flood damage of a similar scale is predicted for the future. Therefore, this type of assistance is expected to be useful in accurately relaying flood information to residents of the region, as well as for improving flood forecasting and early warning capacities of the government.

For the heavy flooding that occurred in Thailand in 2011

as well, flood observation image from satellites is being used in the project for revising the master plan for the Chao Phraya River Basin, which was formulated with assistance from JICA in 1999 (See article on pages 42-43 regarding flooding in Thailand).

Satellite image is not only used for coping with natural disasters, but also for environmental protection in developing countries. In Brazil, a project using ALOS image for preserving the Amazon forests and preventing illegal logging was conducted with the purpose of improving monitoring capacity. An advantage of ALOS information is that it is not affected by cloud cover. By analyzing these images, the specific regions of deforestation in the expansive Amazon can be identified. Additionally, necessary information to crack down on illegal logging can be distributed in order to suppress deforestation. Year-round monitoring was made possible with assistance from Japan, as the Government of Brazil had been unsuccessful in their efforts until then. During the 1-year period of the cooperation from August 2010 to July 2011, the land area affected by logging in the Amazon rainforest (including both legal and illegal logging) was decreased by 11% (Information on the Amazon forest and satellite data is introduced in the column on page 88).

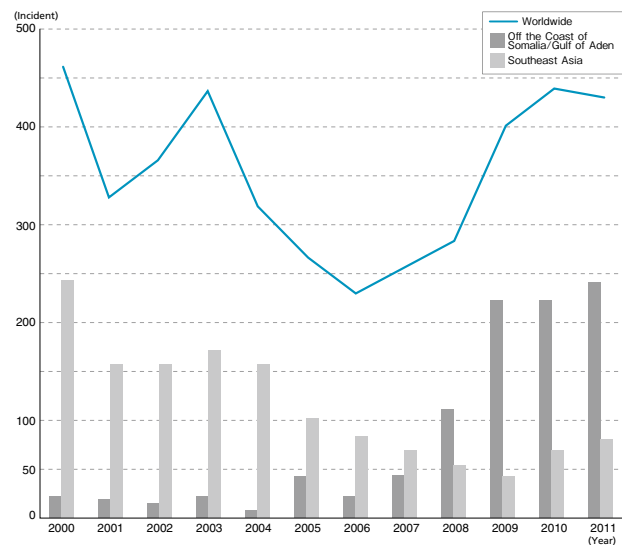


Japan working together with Brazil to find illegal logging in the Amazon forest using satellites. (Photo: JICA)

2. Maritime Cooperation

Maritime assistance for developing countries through ODA has thus far been conducted in various countries. However, in recent years, ODA has been used more strategically from the viewpoint of ensuring the safety of the Sea Lines of Communication linking directly to Japan's national interests. This is conducted in the form of countermeasures against terrorism and piracy, etc. In particular, with regard to securing maritime safety, assistance has been expanded from the Straits of Singapore and the Malacca region of Southeast Asia, where aid was focused up to the 2000s, to the Indian Ocean around the East African regions where there have been frequent acts of piracy in recent years. In East Africa, (Somali coast, Gulf of Aden), the number of piracy incidents have increased sharply since 2007, before which the number of cases had remained below 50 per year. For three consecutive years since 2009, the number of incidents has exceeded 200 annually. Various countries have dispatched military ships and aircrafts to escort commercial ships and to enhance maritime policing and monitoring activities. Japan has also dispatched two destroyers carrying officers of Japan Coast Guard and two patrol aircrafts of Maritime Self Defense Forces since 2009. In terms of ODA, \$14.6 million was contributed to the fund established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) based on the Djibouti Code of Conduct adopted at the Djibouti Meeting convened in 2009. With this, Piracy Information Sharing Centers in Yemen, Kenya, and Tanzania were established to encourage the surrounding countries to share information on piracy cases. Additionally, a training center is being constructed in Djibouti to improve the maritime law enforcement capacity of the countries surrounding

Incidences of piracy



Source: IMB (International Maritime Bureau) Annual Report

Somalia (Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, etc.). JICA has invited maritime safety personnel from Djibouti and the surrounding countries to participate in training for fighting maritime crime and also provides assistance for enhancing the abilities of the Djibouti Coast Guard.

As a maritime nation, Japan has a high level of expertise in this type of maritime safety assistance. In particular, developing countries have great expectations for technical cooperation projects using the knowledge and experience of the maritime safety experts in the Japan Coast Guard, etc. (See “Malaysian “*Umizaru*” Divers Protect International Shipping Routes” on page 17)



Patrol vessel of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (Photo: JICA)



Training at the Haneda Special Rescue Station of the Coast Guard Headquarters. (Photo: JICA)



During training with the Japan Coast Guard, African trainees practice putting on breathing apparatus to be used during fires. (Photo: JICA)

3. Cooperation in Cyberspace

Information technology has developed rapidly; it permeates through all areas of our lives, and has become indispensable as a part of the social infrastructure. As the importance of IT increases, there is a possibility that cyber-attacks and information leaks heavily damage the lives and economic activities of people. Therefore, information security measures for cyberspace have become an important and urgent issue.

However, with the lack of national borders in cyberspace, a safe network environment cannot be ensured by taking countermeasures within Japan alone. For example, even if information security for a Japanese company is highly advanced, information may still be leaked by their overseas business partner companies. Strengthening the security of IT environments in developing countries links directly to the improvement of the business and investment environment for Japanese companies.

Assistance in this area includes the technical cooperation conducted by JICA in Cambodia and Fiji for the establishment of Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) for information security measures. Additionally, there have been many training opportunities offered in Japan for developing countries including security enhancement training for developing “e-Government” with the purpose of making operations both efficient and transparent. With this training, Japan has gained considerable confidence from managers responsible for IT policy and engineers from various countries. The importance of cyberspace continues to increase every day; in the future, assistance will be bolstered for building the capacity of information security and for creating networks that reduce the risk of cyber-attacks, with focus on developing countries that have strong economic ties with Japan.

The issues faced today by the international community in the area of development are diverse. While poverty remains a large issue, other global issues that we must tackle together with developing countries continue to increase, including infectious diseases, climate change, and rising food and fuel prices. In order to conduct effective international cooperation, it is necessary to work together with local governments, NGOs, private-sector companies, and universities, etc., as opposed to working only with the central government. Through JICA volunteer operations including the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), there are many people involved in aid-related activities. Additionally, we should not forget the many people supporting ODA as development consultants and at companies that implement aid projects since they unfailingly perform important work at their posts in developing countries, often under harsh living conditions. Furthermore, local governments and NGOs also play an essential role in providing aid. It is thus necessary to further strengthen the mutual cooperation among the many key players involved in this type of assistance. ODA implemented by the government encourages these partners to participate and makes use of their specialized knowledge and financial power in resolving various issues. Such collaboration is expected to produce a synergistic effect. Using their respective fields of expertise, companies and NGOs have worked hand in hand with the government to provide assistance for developing countries. Some recent examples of this are introduced here.

The first example is a combination of ODA and a private company. The training project conducted by Terumo Corporation is the first case of public-private partnership in the medical field.

● Public-private partnership for training Mexican physicians

In September 2011, Terumo Corporation and JICA jointly held a training session on cardiac catheterization techniques.* For this training, five medical doctors from Mexico were invited to Japan, and with the cooperation of the Shonan Kamakura General Hospital, training on inserting catheters from the wrist was conducted (a catheter is a flexible tube inserted into the body for diagnostic or treatment purposes). In Mexico, ischemic heart disease (a disease in which blockage or narrowing of the coronary arteries due to arterial sclerosis, etc. inhibits the flow of blood to the heart. Commonly results in myocardial infarction (heart attack) or angina) is the second leading cause of death. Despite the large number of patients, there is a shortage of physicians with the skills to perform cardiac catheterizations. In addition, even if they do possess such techniques, the most common method used involves inserting the catheter through the femoral artery in the groin area. The purpose of this training was to allow these physicians from Mexico to acquire the newest catheterization techniques involving insertion through the wrist. This technique is safer and places less of a burden on the patient, in addition to being low-cost.

As a result of the training and through the widespread use of this method, medical costs were cut and the level of medical treatment was raised. Also, a ripple effect of the techniques is expected to extend to other Central American countries and an economic impact is anticipated through the growth of “medical tourism” (travelling to another country for the purpose of receiving medical care), which is being promoted by the Government of Mexico. Prior to the training, Terumo Corporation gathered information and made arrangements in Mexico, provided the facilities and necessary equipment for the training, and made arrangements with the Japanese instructors. Meanwhile, JICA completed procedures for accepting training, as well as monitored and evaluated the training program.



Physicians from Mexico at the training site.

* Glossary

Cardiac catheterization

Specifically, this refers to transradial cardiac catheterization. This method involves inserting a catheter through a large blood vessel in the wrist in order to expand the blood vessels to the heart that have narrowed or become blocked.

By accepting technical trainees or dispatching experts, local governments are already playing an important role in international cooperation.

● Collaborations with local governments

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) enhances collaboration with local governments in Japan in order to provide assistance for the various urban problems faced by emerging and developing countries and contribute to expanding business opportunities for Japanese companies at the same time. In emerging and developing countries, various urban problems such as energy and water shortages, traffic congestion, pollution, and waste products have been generated as a result of their rapid economic growth. Japanese local governments have a wealth of experience in overcoming similar problems during the country's period of rapid growth and thereafter, and have accumulated knowledge, understanding, and technology that is beneficial to emerging and developing countries. Through networking at a local government level, efforts to assist emerging and developing countries continue to progress. Various examples of this type of assistance include cooperation by the city of Kitakyushu with Surabaya, Indonesia for an energy project, with Cambodia and Viet Nam for water projects, as well as cooperation by the city of Yokohama with Cebu in the Philippines for a water project.

While these endeavors by local governments are supported by Japan as a nation, MOFA also proactively uses the technology and know-how of Japanese local governments when providing support for resolving urban problems of emerging and developing countries through ODA. By collaborating with Japanese local governments, ODA projects such as formulating urban development plans for emerging and developing countries, improving the capacity of local governments, gathering information on electrical power, transport, and water needs will continue to be implemented. Through imparting the knowledge, experience, and know-how of local governments upon developing countries these projects are highly useful in the further development of the developing

countries. As a result of such projects, needs for Japan's well-developed urban environmental infrastructure are discovered and smoother overseas expansions by Japanese companies can be expected in the future. Additionally, the JICA Partnership Program (Local Government Type) has been newly incorporated into the FY 2012 supplementary budget in order to implement locally led technical cooperation based on requests from local governments in industries for which local government and local companies have a high level of expertise (e.g. water business, etc.). By providing full support for technical cooperation projects led by local governments, their efforts in promoting the international expansion of local companies will be actively driven, subsequently leading to regional revitalization.



Officials from the Kitakyushu City Waterworks Bureau provide guidance for local officials at a water filtration plant in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
(Photo: Kyodo News)

Collaborations with highly mobile NGOs are conducted in a variety of areas. One important area is emergency aid.

● Collaborations with NGOs for emergency humanitarian aid

Japan Platform (JPF) is an NGO that works together with the government and the business community to provide emergency humanitarian aid. JPF was established as a tripartite cooperation among NGOs, the business community, and the Japanese government, who work together to provide effective and prompt assistance when natural disasters or conflicts occur. Its main objective is to

smoothly implement emergency humanitarian aid projects using government funds and various types of support from private-sector companies. For example, after the earthquake that struck in Haiti in 2010, items donated by private companies such as loading shovels, blankets, flashlights, protective masks, t-shirts, and sandals were used as a part of the assistance provided for victims. More

recently, activities have been conducted in other regions including Pakistan and Southeast Asia, where there has been heavy flood damage, South Sudan, where refugees and internally displaced people have begun to return home, Afghanistan, where conflicts have been going on for many years, and areas in the Horn of Africa that have experienced severe droughts. In these regions, emergency supplies are distributed, cooperation projects in water and sanitation areas are conducted, and repatriation support has been provided.



JPF members conducting relief activities in the Horn of Africa region that has been ravaged by drought. (Photo: Japan Platform)

Cooperation is offered by using the specialized expertise of NGOs with their unique knowledge, experience, and technologies.

● Collaborations with NGOs using techniques originated in Japan

The NGO Community Road Empowerment (CORE) provides assistance in the maintenance of rural roads using a method suitable for local conditions to solve an important issue faced by residents of farming communities in developing countries. In Kenya, FY 2011 Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects was utilized to implement a project for rural road maintenance using the traditional Japanese “Do-nou” (sandbags) method, which is also valuable for the continued revitalization of farmer’s groups in the area. Since the condition of roads worsens in the rainy season, farmers are unable to transport their products. Therefore, for this project, the technique of using the “Do-nou” method to repair roads was transferred to these farmer’s groups in an effort to improve the lives of people living in rural areas. This method for road repairs uses “Do-nou” or sandbags (bags with the dimensions L 40cm × W 40cm × H 10cm filled with soil), which are laid as a road foundation able to bear the weight of 23 tons. Construction work is done exclusively by hand.

Since the construction method is simple, farmers can perform the work themselves. Maintenance is not difficult and farmers can make repairs themselves. Additionally, by using inexpensive materials that can be procured locally (used grain bags, etc.), costs are kept low. By maintaining rural roads using the Japanese method of “Do-nou,” the people of developing countries can easily further social development on their own. This point has attracted the attention of various UN organizations.



The use of CORE’s “Do-nou” construction method allows local residents to easily make repairs by themselves. (In Rift Valley Province, Kenya) (Photo: CORE)

For development assistance, the role played by NGOs as representatives of civil society is increasingly important. To attain human security or achieve MDGs, not only is the assistance provided through the administrative agencies of developing countries needed, but support that appeals to local residents and communities is also required. In this regard, NGOs possess a considerable amount of experience and knowledge. Assistance provided by NGOs is characterized by the following three points. (i) Being familiar with the local situation, activities that pay attention to finer details can be conducted. (ii) Support for the needs that are difficult to reach through government aid can be provided. (iii) By joining local communities,

strong interpersonal ties are formed through friendships and trust with residents. Furthermore, projects in which local residents are directly involved can be formulated, with the additional strength of being able to implement the projects at relatively lower costs. Compared to leading NGOs in Europe and the U.S., the organizational capabilities and structures of Japanese NGOs are lacking, and it cannot be said that they have abundant financial resources. However, the Japanese government intends to work towards supporting NGOs and their activities in order to achieve international cooperation that is even more effective.