

2. Sustainable Growth

(1) Socio-economic Infrastructure

To reduce poverty in developing countries, it is indispensable not only to implement measures to reduce poverty and to provide assistance in the areas of social development that directly help the poor, but also to

promote sustainable economic growth. Therefore, it is important to improve the socio-economic infrastructure that serves as the foundation for the development of developing countries.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan supports infrastructure development and fosters the human resources to maintain, manage, and operate this infrastructure, in accordance with the development policies of developing countries. In terms of specific infrastructure development, development is carried out on roads, ports, airports, and information and communication technology (ICT). Such infrastructure contributes to the expansion of exchange between urban and rural areas, ensures security in case of disasters, and promotes trade with and investment from overseas countries. In addition, social infrastructure, which contributes to ensuring education, health, safe water and sanitation, housing, and better access to hospitals and schools, is also improved, as

well as development of agricultural and fishery markets and fishing ports to revitalize local economies.



Japanese carpenters and basin residents work at a diversion weir upstream of the Bemos River in East Timor. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)

Mongolia

Project for Construction of Railway Fly-over in Ulaanbaatar City Grant Aid (May 2009 - Present)

More than 40% of Mongolia's 2.8 million population is concentrated in the country's capital of Ulaanbaatar. While urbanization has led to a rapid increase in traffic on the roads, road maintenance and improvement is unable to keep up with its pace and the city's traffic conditions have continued to deteriorate. Furthermore, since the railroad running east to west across the city divides the industrial zone in the south from the administrative offices and commercial districts in the north, the bridge over the railway plays an important role in the life of residents. The existing railroad flyover, however, had deteriorated and degraded with age terribly which was posing a challenge for safe and smooth traffic.

For this reason, Japan has been constructing a new road of 895m including a railway flyover of approximately 260m to connect the city's center to the north and south. Because this bridge was to become Mongolia's first full-fledged steel bridge, the contracted Japanese construction company volunteered to hold technical seminars and on-site tours for engineers from the concerned government agencies and university students. This allowed them to utilize the bridge as a case study for introducing Japanese construction techniques to Mongolia. Participants praised the seminars and tours for allowing them to study the advanced construction techniques of Japanese companies directly.

Japan and Mongolia marked the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2012 and this bridge has been named the Sun Bridge as a new symbol of friendship between the two countries as the sun represents Japan in Mongolia. It is expected the Sun Bridge will improve Ulaanbaatar's traffic congestion, and contribute to stability/optimization of logistics in the city and stimulate the economy.

(As of December 2012)



Sun Bridge, under-construction, straddling the railroad. (Photo: JFE Engineering)

(2) Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The dissemination of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* contributes to the achievement of sustainable economic growth by upgrading industries and improving productivity. It also contributes to addressing the issues related to medical care, education, energy, the environment, disaster management, and other societal

issues. Utilization of ICT improves their democratic foundation through encouraging information disclosure by the government, and improving the environment for broadcasting media. It is also extremely important to strengthen the civil society through improvement of the convenience and quality of services.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan has actively offered assistance focusing on the field of the construction of communication and broadcasting facilities in developing countries, as well as the installation of the technology and systems they require and relevant human resources development, in efforts to improve the lives of all people and to eliminate the ICT disparities that exist between countries and regions.

Specifically, Japan has worked with ITU (International Telecommunication Union)*, a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for telecommunications, to provide a variety of telecommunications development assistance to developing countries. In March 2012 in Sendai, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the ITU held a joint Symposium on Disaster Communications to share with overseas organizations the knowledge and lessons Japan had learned in the ICT field from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the resulting reconstruction process. Japan has also decided to hold workshops and other activities in 2013 under the aim of spreading ICT e-health to developing countries in order to help solve medical problems common throughout the world.

In the Asia-Pacific Ocean region, the Asian international organization Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT)* has served as a coordinator of regional policy. In 2009, APT formulated joint declarations and action plans intended to set the stage for collaborative efforts among member countries that would work to proliferate broadband in the Asia-Pacific Ocean region. Their efforts have contributed to a balanced development of telecommunications and information bases within the region. To reduce ICT disparities and solve on-site health and education problems with ICT, Japan has supported a pilot project and human resource development such as trainings and workshops



Most of the broadcasting equipment in the educational materials production center of this Indian university was provided by Japan. (Photo: Osamu Funao/JICA)

through APT.

In ASEAN, the joint declaration (Bali Declaration) adopted at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting held in November 2011 incorporated the ASEAN Smart Network Initiative and other cooperative enhancements in the field of ICT as part of an effort to advance cooperation in the field of telecommunications.

Furthermore, the problems surrounding cyber attacks have piqued the interest of ASEAN countries in recent years. In a joint declaration at the Japan-ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) held in the Philippines (Cebu) in November 2012, an agreement was reached to hold the Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Policy Meeting on Cyber Security Cooperation in Japan (Tokyo) in September 2013.

Though also linked to the country's economic growth, Japan actively provides comprehensive support to overseas promoting activities for Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial (ISDB-T)* in terms of maintenance, personnel, and systems. As of January 2013, ISDB-T has been spread throughout Latin America. Japan has dispatched experts to eight countries including Chile,

Peru and Costa Rica and been transferring technologies since FY 2009 as part of the support to ISDB-T adopter countries. Furthermore, JICA training is conducted every

year for both adopter countries and potential adopter countries to promote the overseas spread and introduction of ISDB-T.

* Glossary

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT is technology that integrates computers and other information technology with digital communication technology, as characterized by the Internet and mobile phones.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

This UN specialized agency is responsible for the fields of telecommunications and broadcasting (HQ: Geneva, Switzerland. 193 member countries). To ensure that people around the world are able to make use of telecommunications technologies, this agency provides support for: (1) the international allocation of radio frequencies used in mobile phones, satellite broadcasting, and other technologies, (2) the international standardization of technologies for telephone and the Internet, etc., (3) telecommunications development in developing countries.

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

An international telecommunications organization established in the Asia-Pacific Ocean region in 1979, made up of 38 member countries. Aiming for a balanced development of telecommunications and information bases in the Asia-Pacific Ocean region, it develops human resources through training sessions and seminars and coordinates regional policies on standardization, wireless communication, and other telecommunication issues.

Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting - Terrestrial (ISDB-T)

A terrestrial digital broadcasting system that was developed in Japan. Its advantages include emergency alert broadcasts and other features useful in disaster prevention.

Laos

Human Resource Development in IT Service Industry at NUOL Technical Cooperation Project (December 2008 - Present)

Laos lags behind its neighbors in terms of the introduction and development of IT. In response, the government has been emphasizing the importance of IT education since 2001 in an attempt to use its introduction to stimulate the whole of the national economy.

Under these circumstances, Japan dispatched experts, trained university faculty and provided the needed equipment and educational facilities to the IT Department of the Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos (NUOL) to support human resource development in the area of IT. With support from Japan, NUOL has established specialist courses and IT Business Unit (ITBU)* within the university's IT department, allowing students in Laos to acquire practical software engineering techniques and business skills. About 30 students enter this course every year, and in 2011, the very first class of 38 students finally graduated. The hope is that these students will use IT technology to support future development in Laos.

(As of December 2012)

* IT Business Unit (ITBU): The ITBU is established within universities to provide a forum for industry-academic collaboration. First it accepts orders for system development and private IT engineers, university faculty, and students collaborate on developing the system. ITBU allows students to study and learn the techniques in the joint development of large-scale systems at actual sites.



Technology transfer by a Japanese JICA expert (Photo: JICA)

(3) Cooperation between Trade, Investment, and Other Official Flows (OOF)

Private sector plays a leading role for sustainable growth in developing countries. Also it is important to revitalize private-sector activities such as the development of industry and the expansion of trade and investment.

<Japan's Efforts>

Japan utilizes ODA and Other Official Flows (OOF)* to support advancements of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries, transfer of Japan's industrial technology, and formulation of economic policies. In addition, Japan supports improvements of trade and investment environment and development of economic infrastructures in order to enhance the export capabilities and competitiveness of developing countries.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round Negotiations (the Doha Development Agenda)* which started in 2001 also emphasizes the promotion of development through participation in the multilateral free trading system by developing countries. Japan has contributed to the trust fund set up within the WTO with an aim to improve the capacity of developing countries to engage in trade negotiations and participate in the global market, thereby gaining the ability to implement the WTO agreements.

Regarding access to Japanese markets, Japan has implemented the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which applies lower tariff rates for imports of products from developing countries. Japan provides duty-free quota-free access* for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*. In addition, Japan also actively promotes Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)*, and tries to create an environment for economic growth in developing countries through liberalization of trade and investment.

In recent years, discussions have intensified over Aid for Trade (AFT)* at various international forums, including the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as a means of further promoting support by developed countries, including Japan. At the Second Trade Global Review Meeting on Aid for Trade held in July 2009, Japan announced its new strategy for Aid for Trade called "Development Initiative for Trade 2009,*" with approximately \$12 billion in total support for trade-related projects. This Initiative has garnered high praise from numerous countries. In terms of specific initiatives, Japan provides funds for the development of transportation networks vital to trade, including ports, roads, and bridges, as well as for projects to construct power plants and power grids, etc. It also

However, in developing countries beset by a variety of challenges it can sometimes be difficult to set in place an environment that attracts private investment. Therefore supports from the international community are required.

provides technical cooperation in trade-related areas, including the education of customs officials. Japan also provides assistance to small-scale production groups and small companies in developing countries for the One Village, One Product Campaign*. In addition, Japan supports developing countries in attracting private sector investment by identifying issues unique to those countries, and recommending measures to promote investment.

Further, Japan is proactively engaged with the Regional Technical Group on Aid for Trade for Asia and the Pacific which researches successful examples of development assistance that has contributed to economic growth through exports in the Asia region. At the Third Aid for Trade Global Review Meeting held in July 2011, examples of Japan's success in development assistance and other results from meetings of the Technical Group were introduced to representatives of other regions, and garnered high praise from participating countries. Furthermore, as a technical cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to support the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, the Ministry has assisted their efforts to secure advanced local personnel through the human resource development of local industries, collaborating with local universities to offer corporate culture courses, internships, and other means.



A Japanese expert visit a tiny furniture manufacturing company in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to talk about the KAIZEN Board.
(Photo courtesy of Kenshiro Imamura/JICA)

* Glossary

Other Official Flows (OOF)

Flows of funds to developing countries from the government which are not considered to be ODA because the main purpose is not development. Examples include export credit, direct investment, financing of international organizations, etc.

Doha Round Negotiations (the Doha Development Agenda)

Negotiations between multiple WTO Members aimed at liberalizing trade in a wide range of fields, including reduction/elimination of tariffs on industrial products and agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry products, and loosening regulations in the service sector. One of their challenges is the development of developing countries through trade.

Duty-free quota-free access

Measures implemented by the developed countries to eliminate customs duties, quotas, and other obstacles to exports from least developed countries (LDCs) to the developed countries. The number of applicable products has expanded, and approximately 98% of products exported by LDCs to Japan can be imported without payment of duties and without quotas. (As of February 2012)

Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Countries classified by the United Nations to be particularly lagging in development even compared to other developing countries, based on their income levels. Countries that meet certain criteria, including per capita gross national income (GNI) of \$992 or less. As of December 2012, there are 48 countries that have been so designated: 7 in Asia, 2 in Middle East and North Africa, 33 in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1 in Latin America, and 5 in Oceania. (See page 191)

One Village, One Product Campaign

Overseas utilization of an approach that began in Oita Prefecture, Japan in 1979. The aim is to create jobs and revitalize the community by developing unique local products through the utilization of local resources and traditional techniques. Efforts are made to focus on handicrafts, textiles, toys, and other attractive products that emanate unique ethnic characteristics of developing countries in Asia and Africa, etc., and reach out to a wider range of people, thereby aiding in the improvement of exports of products from developing countries.

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

A comprehensive economic agreement between specific countries (or regions) that, in addition to free-trade agreements (FTA) that stipulate the reduction and elimination of tariffs of foods and the barriers in trade in services, aims to make rules in such areas as investment, the movement of people, government procurement, protection of intellectual property, competition policy, and bilateral cooperation intended to enhance broad economic ties.

Aid for Trade (Aft)

Assistance is provided to developing countries to support efforts to improve trade-related capabilities and to prepare and maintain infrastructures, for the purpose of aiding developing countries in achieving economic growth under the WTO's multilateral trade structure.

Development Initiative for Trade 2009

Comprehensive measures to support sustainable development of developing countries through trade. For developing countries to enjoy the benefits of the free trade system, not only must trade be liberalized, but it must be built on the three pillars of (i) production (improvement of the ability to produce competitive products), (ii) distribution and marketing (preparation and maintenance of a domestic and overseas logistics system including the distribution infrastructure), and (iii) purchasing (pioneering of markets). The aim is to combine means of assistance such as "knowledge and technology," "funds," "people," and "systems" with these three aspects, and provide comprehensive support that connects producers and laborers in developing countries to consumers both in the developed countries and developing countries.

Viet Nam

Project for Capacity Development of Business Persons through Vietnam-Japan Human Resources Cooperation Center Technical Cooperation Project (September 2010 - Present)

Viet Nam has been promoting transition to a market economy and international economic integration as part of its national vision of becoming a modern, industrialized country by 2020. Within the country's work force, however, the number of laborers who received a certain amount of practical training at universities or vocational training schools remains small, and middle managers, technical managers, and skilled laborers are in short supply. With regards to quality, it has been pointed out that educational and training curricula do not meet the needs of industry, and there is also a problem of inadequate instructors. Particularly a lack of personnel with the knowledge of promoting industrialization/modernization and personnel who have knowledge and experience in administration/management has been a matter of grave concern.

Based on the results and achievements of projects conducted over the last 10 years by the Vietnam-Japan Human Resources Cooperation Center (VJCC)*, this project aims to solve this shortfall in human resources by providing specialized cooperation with the center on enhancements to the operation and management of business courses and the center's organizational operation and management system. Through four years of cooperation, the goal of this project is to continue developing the managers that will spearhead Vietnam's shift toward industrialization. (As of December 2012)

* Vietnam-Japan Human Resources Cooperation Center (VJCC): A human resource development agency established by the governments of Japan and Vietnam. Under the aim of developing human resources capable of moving Vietnam toward a market-oriented economy, this agency offers business education, Japanese language education, and a variety of exchange programs. It has two centers, one in Hanoi and another in Ho Chi Minh City.



A presentation on the manufacturing achievements of business participants takes place every year at the center in Ho Chi Minh City. (Photo: JICA)

(4) Policy Formulation and Institution Building

For the sustainable growth of developing countries, not only the establishment of the socio-economic infrastructure, but also the policy formulation, institution building, and human resources development are important.

<Japan's Efforts>

As part of its support in policy formulation and institution building, Japan provides assistance for development of the legal system. Improvement of the legal system serves as the foundation for development of the country through self-help efforts that are based on good governance. Assistance for this sector is a typical example of person-to-person cooperation between Japan and the recipient countries, and plays a role in the “Visibility of Japanese Aid.”

In addition, improvement of the legal systems in developing countries through such measures is an important effort as it will also improve the work environment for Japanese companies. Japan's assistance for the improvement of legal systems comes through its “soft power,” and serves as the underpinning for strengthening Asia's potential for growth.

Moreover, for democratic development Japan supports the institution building for legal, judicial, administrative, public service, and police systems, support for the implementation of democratic elections, strengthening of civil society, and aid improvement of women's status. Japan also provides support for the prevention of corruption, the development of statistical capabilities, and the enhancement of the abilities of local governments.

It is essential to support eradicating corruption, legal and institutional reforms, improving the efficiency and transparency of public administration, and strengthening the administrative capacity of local governments.

For the issues of criminal justice Japan also supports the training and seminars for professionals in criminal justice of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific through the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI).

Japan provides assistance for the policy formulation and institution building not only for specific projects, but also for financing the national accounts of local government.

In the area of capacity building of police agencies that constitute a cornerstone in maintenance of domestic security, Japan provides support with a combination of transfer of the knowledge and technology based on experiences of the Japanese police in international cooperation, and provision of equipment and maintenance of facilities, while emphasizing the development of human resources, including improvement of systems and enhancement of administrative capabilities. The National Police Agency dispatches experts to and accepts trainees mainly from Asian countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines. Through this, Japan strives to transfer the attitudes, investigative abilities, and forensics technology of the democratically controlled Japanese police, who are trusted by the Japanese people.



A Japanese expert provides technical guidance on fingerprinting and forensics at the Malaysian National Police Crime Laboratory in an effort to improve the forensic investigation capabilities of the Malaysian National Police. (Photo: Arase Sugawara/JICA)

(5) Cultural Preservation and Promotion

In developing countries, more people are interested in the promotion and preservation of their own cultures. For example, cultural heritages that symbolize a country are not only the source of pride for its people, but can also be used effectively as sightseeing resources to develop the society of the residents of surrounding areas. However, many of the cultural heritages of developing countries are

at risk, and support to protect those cultural heritages can be viewed as cooperation that goes direct to people's hearts, and has long-term impacts. In addition, the preservation of the precious cultural heritages that are shared by all humankind is an issue that not only developing countries should be dealing with, but the entire international community as well.

<Japan's Efforts>

Since 1975 Japan has continued to contribute to the promotion of cultural and higher educational activities and preservation of cultural heritages of developing countries with Cultural Grant Assistance*. Specifically, Japan has implemented construction of the facilities for the preservation and use of the cultural heritages and cultural properties, sports and cultural facilities, higher education and research organization facilities, and improvement of necessary equipment in the said facilities. The equipment and facilities provided to developing countries through Cultural Grant Assistance are also used as bases for providing information of Japan, and for cultural exchange, and would deepen the understanding of Japan and fostering a sense of affinity towards Japan. In recent years,

from the viewpoint of "Japan Promotion," Japan has also put importance on support for Japanese language education.

In FY 2011, Japan provided assistance for the educational, research and tourism facilities related to natural and cultural heritages in Mongolia, Laos, Peru, and Egypt. In addition to providing the opportunity for the people of these countries to become familiar with these heritages through the conservation, research and exhibition of their precious natural and cultural heritages, this assistance was intended to contribute to socio-economic development through the tourism industry.

Also, as part of its aim to develop human resources in developing countries, Japan has provided assistance for



Mongolian children learn penmanship under JOCV guidance. (Photo: Kumiko Kido)

higher education in Japanese language, physical education, music, and a wide variety of others subjects in Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Dominican Republic, Panama, Brazil, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition to this, Japan has supported program production and broadcasting projects of radio and television stations in Columbia and Cuba.

Japan is supporting restoration and preservation of cultural heritage, providing equipment, and conducting the necessary preliminary studies and surveys on heritage through “the Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage” that has been established in UNESCO. Particular efforts are put in the capacity

building of human resources in developing countries, through dispatching international experts, holding workshops, and other activities which serve to transfer techniques and knowledge as well. Japan provides support not only related to so-called tangible cultural heritages, but also for intangible cultural heritages such as traditional dance, music, handicraft technology, oral traditions, through “the Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage” which has been established in UNESCO as well. Through the Funds, Japan supports projects for the training of successors, the storage of records, and other activities.

* Glossary

Cultural Grant Assistance

Cultural Grant Assistance provides the funding to contribute to the promotion of cultural and higher educational activities and preservation of cultural heritage in developing countries. (procurement of equipment, construction of facilities, etc.) There are two types: “General Cultural Grant Assistance,” which is provided to governmental organizations, and “Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects,” which is provided to NGOs and local public entities for small-scale projects.

Ethiopia

Project to Supply Language Laboratory Equipment and Learning Materials to the Japanese Language Unit at Mekelle University Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (GACGP) (November 2010 - November 2011)

Ethiopia's distinguished Mekelle University started offering Ethiopia's first Japanese language course in 2008. With interest in Japanese economy and technology on the rise, large numbers of students requested to enter the course. Without dedicated classrooms and equipment, however, few students were able to enroll, and the ones who did were faced with insufficient learning materials. With the help of the GACGP scheme, Japan responded to these problems by providing language labs and developing Japanese learning materials for the Japanese course. As a result of this assistance, three times as many students have been able to enroll in Japanese courses with better facilities and environment.

In March 2012, the Ethiopia's first Japanese speech contest was held under this Japanese course, and 20 student representatives offered impassioned speeches.

Japanese researchers have helped to preserve and research the cultural heritage of Ethiopia while introducing Japanese culture at Mekelle University. Assisting Japanese language education at Mekelle University is expected to contribute to human resource development in Ethiopia, increasing knowledge of Japanese culture and society, and promoting further exchange between the two countries.



Outstanding students give Japanese speeches in a well-equipped Japanese classroom. (Photo: Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia)