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EFFORTS TO TACKLE VARIOUS GLOBAL ISSUES TO PROMOTE HUMAN SECURITY

1 Promotion of Human Security

Human Security

The advancement of globalization has brought about an age where people, goods, money and information move across borders with unprecedented force and mutually impact the lives of people. Nonetheless, there is a downside of such globalization, which for example includes epidemics of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), environmental pollution, drug crimes and the international terrorism and its intensification. Another example is how a financial crisis that has occurred in one country can seriously affect the lives of socially vulnerable people throughout the world in one night. After the end of the Cold War, domestic and regional conflicts have more frequently erupted than international conflicts, and it has caused people not only to leave their countries as refugees, but also to become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in border areas and within countries. Since the various interests of countries intersect on various fronts, lives and property of people cannot be thoroughly protected by only national security, or in other words, by defending one's national borders alone. Consequently, the concept of "human security" was developed. This concept means in addition to providing national protection, focusing on each and every person, eliminating threats to people through cooperation by various countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, and striving to strengthen the capacity of people and society so as to enable people to lead self-sufficient lives.

Adoption of the Report of the Commission on Human Security

Japan has advanced diplomacy with an emphasis on the perspective of "human security" and as part of its efforts, Japan has advocated the establishment of the Commission on Human Security (co-chaired by former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata and Professor Amartya Sen, Master of

Trinity College, Cambridge) and supported the activities of the Commission. This Commission undertook the task of developing the concept of "human security" and discussed methods of realizing it with a comprehensive consideration of a wide range of issues including conflict, development, economic stability, health and sanitation, and education. A report was then finalized, summarizing approximately two years of discussion, and it was delivered to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in February. The final report was submitted to United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan on May 1.

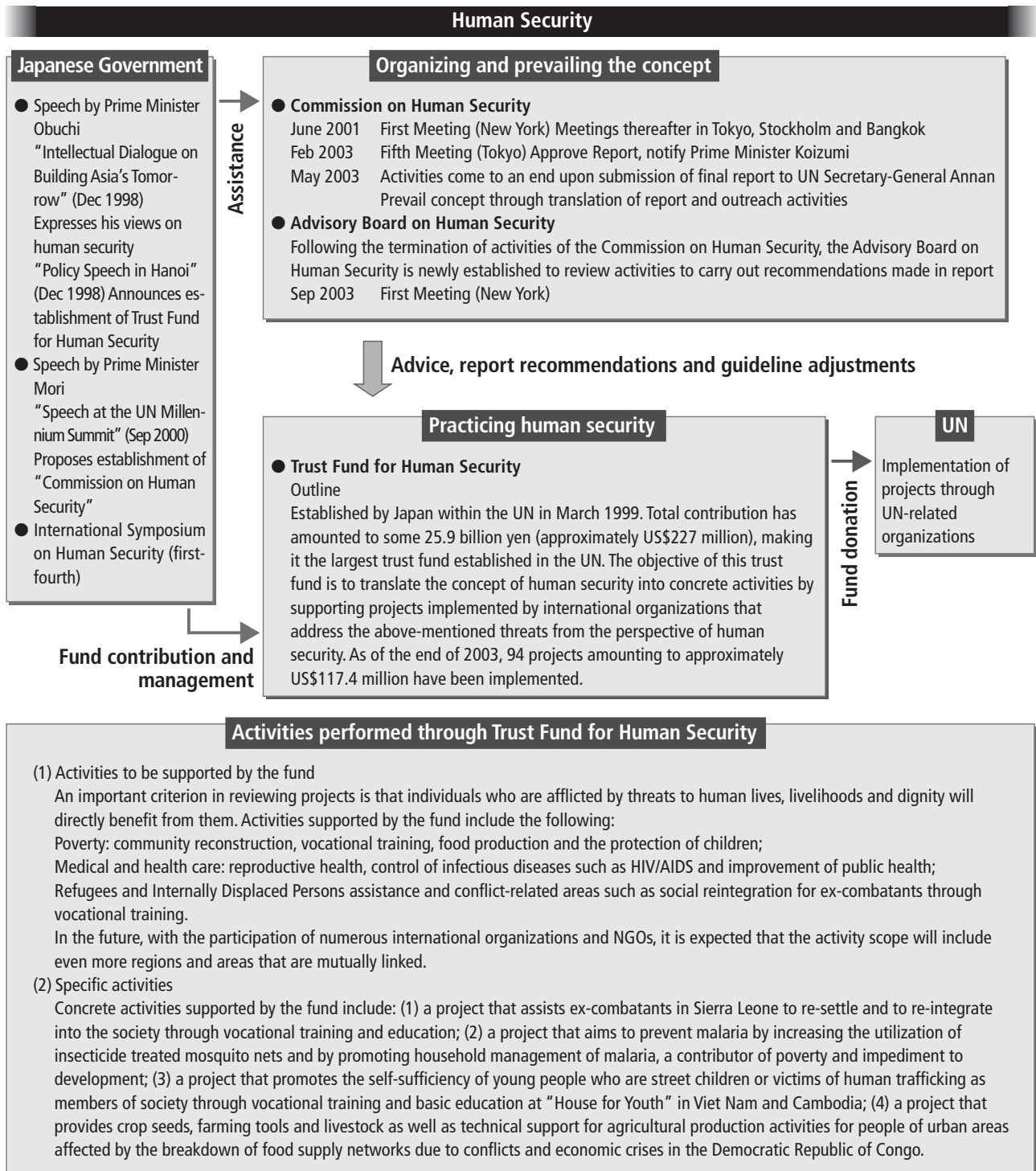
The Advisory Board on Human Security (ABHS) was established in order to follow-up on the report and advise the Trust Fund for Human Security. The first meeting of the ABHS was held in September.

Japan's Efforts

Japan is striving to ensure that "human security" should be established as an idea that complements the conventional concept of security and that the efforts based on the final report of the Commission are put into practice.

The Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter, which was revised in August for the first time in almost ten years, has reinforced the perspective of "human security" in its Basic Policies. In FY2003, the existing Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects was progressively reorganized into Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, which reflected the concept of "human security" more strongly, and approximately 15 billion yen was allocated to the aid.

The Trust Fund for Human Security was established in the UN Secretariat with the contributions made by the Japanese Government since 1999, and has since provided funds for aid projects of UN-related agencies. In FY2003, Japan contributed approximately 3 billion yen to this fund. Moreover, Japan revised the guidelines with a view to realizing the proposals of the Commission on Human Security more effectively through the fund's projects. More specifically, the



guidelines incorporated new items such as having a number of international organizations and NGOs participate and consider a wider range of interconnected regions and areas when implementing projects, and integrating humanitarian assistance and development assistance by strengthening human capacity during the tran-

sition period from conflict to peace. In the future, Japan intends to provide reconstruction assistance actively to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and other countries accordingly.

The concept of "human security" was taken up at various fora in the international arena in 2003. In documents such as the Chair's Summary of the Evian

Summit in June, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Tenth Anniversary Declaration in October, the 11th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Declaration and the Tokyo Declaration for the Dynamic and Enduring Japan-ASEAN Partnership in the New Millennium in December, countries agreed to cooperate in line with the concept of "human security" and strive

to resolve global-scale issues including development, the environment and international crime. Furthermore, the importance of the concept of "human security" was affirmed in many bilateral meetings and consultations, as illustrated by the reference to "human security" in the joint statement issued during the Japan-Poland Summit Meeting in August 2003.

Commission on Human Security and Report of the Commission

The Commission on Human Security, established in 2001, is co-chaired by Ms. Ogata and Professor Sen, and composed of 12 eminent persons from around the world as commissioners. The goal of the commission is to develop the concept of human security and propose a program of action that the international community should take to make human security concrete. Recommendations focusing upon the following ten points were agreed in the final report of May 2003:

1. Protecting people in violent conflict
2. Protecting people from the proliferation of arms
3. Supporting the security of people on the move
4. Establishing human security transition funds for post-conflict situations
5. Encouraging fair trade and markets to benefit the extreme poor
6. Working to provide minimum living standards everywhere
7. According higher priority to ensuring universal access to basic health care
8. Developing an efficient and equitable global system for patent rights
9. Empowering all people with universal basic education
10. Clarifying the need for a global human identity while respecting the freedom of individuals to have diverse identities and affiliations

(Photo)

2 Controlling Infectious Diseases

(1) Infectious Diseases

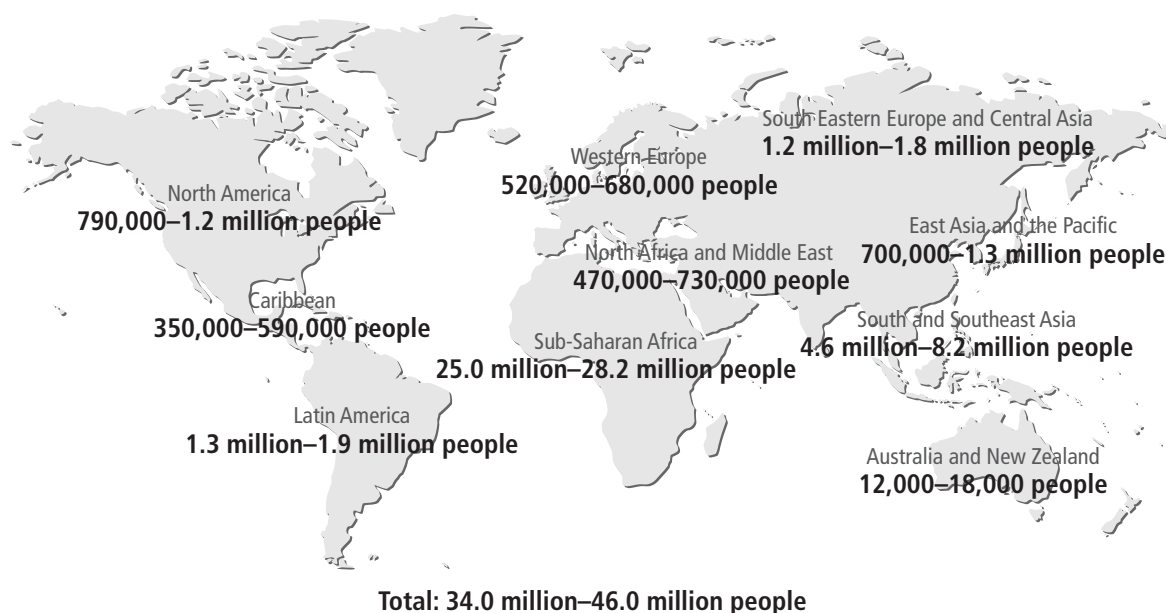
Epidemics of infectious diseases as typified by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, polio and parasitic diseases seriously impede the growth of developing countries and it is an urgent task of the international community to expand and strengthen the control of infectious diseases.

At the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, Japan announced the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative, which aimed to provide US\$3 billion over five years as assistance in countermeasures against infectious diseases. Since extensive grassroots-level efforts are necessary to deal with infectious diseases, one of the basic principles of this initiative is to promote countermeasures in coordination not only with the governments of developing countries, but also with partners in the international community including other donor countries, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector. With regard to polio, Japan announced that it would provide US\$80 million in assistance for the global eradication initiative by 2005, a program formulated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and

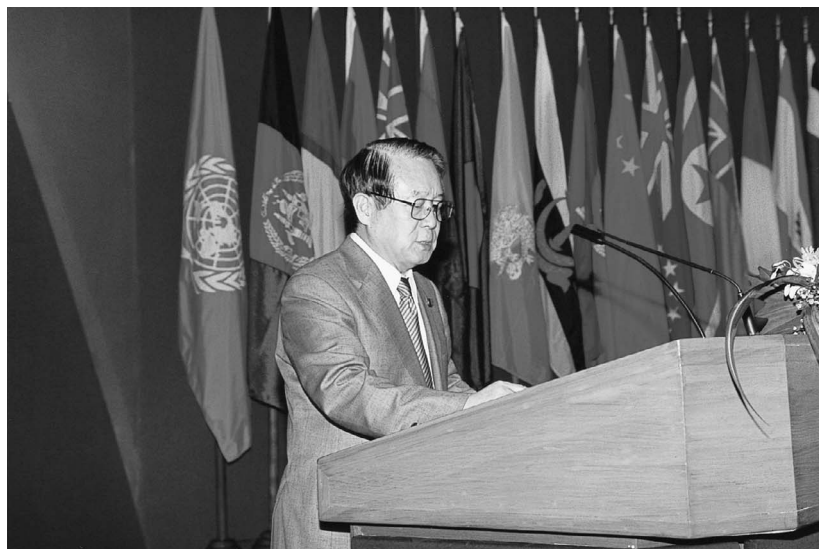
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). With respect to countermeasures against malaria, Japan plans to distribute a total of over one million mosquito nets throughout the world in FY2003. As such, Japan is making significant contributions in the area of infectious diseases. Japan's record of aid through the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative already exceeds a cumulative total of US\$2 billion since FY2000.

Spurred by Japan's position at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) was established in January 2002 after discussions at subsequent fora including G8 summits and UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS). Japan was among the first to announce a contribution to this fund in the amount of US\$200 million. Japan also plays a vital role in the management and operation of the GFATM as a member of the Board, along with other major donor countries including the United States (US) and France. The GFATM has already decided to provide a total of US\$2.05 billion for 228 cases in 121 countries for countermeasures, including preventing, treating and providing care for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in

Estimated Number of People (Adults and Children) Infected with HIV/AIDS as of the End of 2003



Note: This figure is based on reference material from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).



Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Eisuke Hinode introduces Japan's assistance in countermeasures against infectious diseases based on the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative at the 59th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (September)

developing countries, and it is implementing many of these projects. In order to support the activities of the fund further, Japan announced at the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in December that it would contribute up to US\$100 million in 2004. With this contribution, Japan will have provided a total of US\$265 million to the fund, including its previous contributions. The activities of the GFATM were praised at the Evian Summit in June, General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in September 2003 and other occasions, and the importance of supporting this fund has been reaffirmed.

Taking countermeasures against infectious diseases is an urgent task that the international community should unite to tackle. Japan intends to contribute actively to a broad range of countermeasures against infectious diseases by combining both bilateral and multilateral assistance and strengthening cooperation with its partners in the international community.

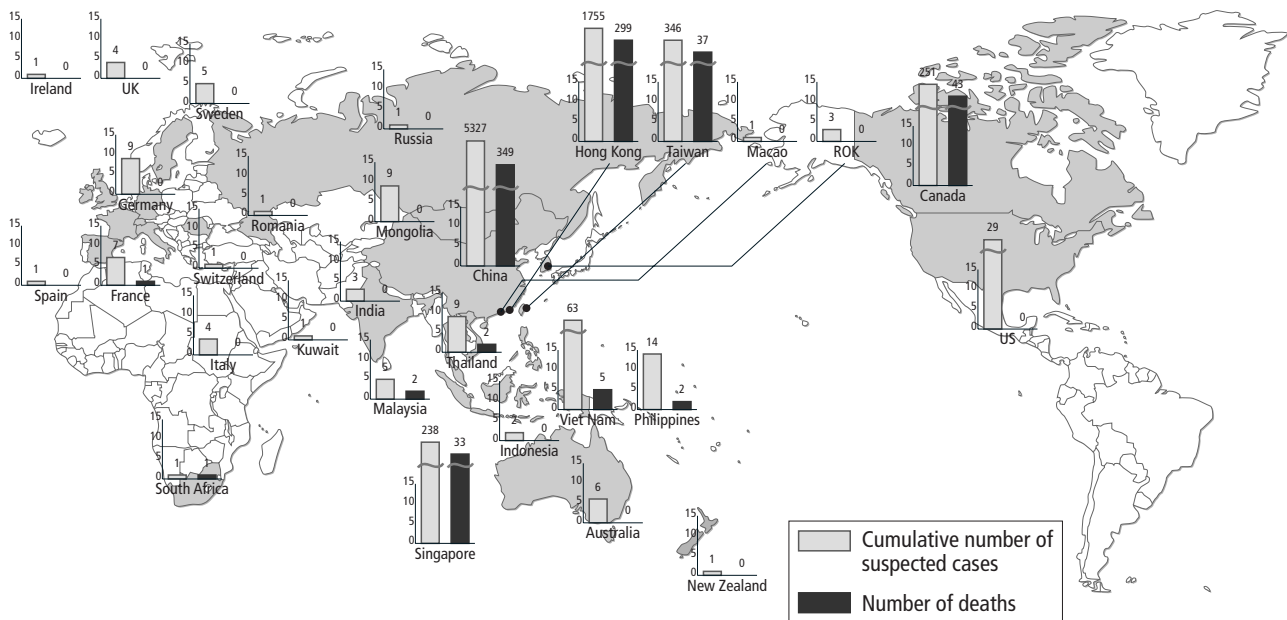
(2) Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

The first case currently known as SARS was found in Guangdong Province in China in November 2002, but not confirmed until some time later. After mid February 2003, SARS began to spread at a rapid pace mainly in Viet Nam and Hong Kong, and the infection was also seen in Canada. As the number of deaths from SARS

surged, the infection gradually spread in Asian countries and the regions primarily, such as Taiwan, Singapore, the Philippines and Mongolia, without information about an infection source, route or method of treatment. On April 2, the WHO imposed a travel warning on Guangdong Province in China and Hong Kong, where a particularly high number of persons infected with SARS had been reported, and imposed a travel warning on Beijing and Shanxi Province (China) and Toronto (Canada) on April 23. Under these circumstances, the government of China designated SARS as a notifiable disease on May 10. The SARS rage diminished in June, and the WHO announced on July 5 that "the spread of the infection on a global scale is clearly being controlled," thereby effectively declaring that the spread of the SARS infection had been contained. Since then, the situation has remained unpredictable, with the confirmation of new cases of SARS in China in January 2004.

The spread of the SARS infection has also affected the international economy, wielding a considerable effect particularly on service industries such as tourism, airlines and retailing in China and Hong Kong between April and June. Furthermore, the spread of the SARS infection became a risk factor that increased uncertainties about the economic outlook and had a significant impact on business. Partially due to the effect of SARS, the World Bank revised its 2003 economic growth rate for East Asia excluding Japan downward from 5.5% in November 2002 to 5.0% in April 2003 (of this, the

Situation of SARS Outbreak in the World (November 2002–July 2003)



Source: Reference material from the WHO.

SARS factor is assumed to have accounted for 0.3% of this decline).

Once the SARS infection was contained, the Asian economy rapidly recovered from the devastation of SARS and there were hardly any effects after the summer. Nonetheless, SARS, which spread throughout the world in a short period of time and killed many people, was viewed as the manifestation of a new threat that epitomized the dark side of globalization.

Although no SARS cases were seen in Japan, the Japanese Government has taken the initiative to combat the infection, acknowledging it as a threat to the entire international community including Asia. Japan actively raised this issue at fora such as the G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the G8 Summit, the Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade and the APEC Health Ministers' Meeting, which were held between May and June. It was confirmed that in order to combat SARS, regional cooperation and global efforts as well as those of individual countries were indispensable, and there was a pressing need to develop a seamless cooperative framework without any blank areas through cooperation between various countries, not only at the government level, but also among medical and research institutions and experts, and between the WHO and its regional frameworks. Furthermore, there was a consensus that in order to minimize the effects on the

world economy, considerations would be made to ensure that regulations on economic activity would not be unnecessarily imposed through the accurate provision and dissemination of information.

Japan also made efforts to assist its citizens living abroad by successively providing SARS-related information concerning the spread of the infection through the Foreign Ministry website and overseas establishments, dispatching medical personnel twice to each of Hong Kong and Guangzhou Province in April to explain preventive measures, and dispatching experts on infectious diseases to Toronto in May.

In terms of international cooperation, Japan actively cooperated in countermeasures against SARS in cooperation with the WHO. Japan provided a total of approximately 2 billion yen in assistance to China, Mongolia and Southeast Asian countries (Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar). With respect to Viet Nam, in particular, the government expressed its appreciation to Japan for its contribution to the early containment of SARS through efforts such as dispatching a Japan disaster relief expert team at an early stage. Moreover, regarding China, where the damage was especially severe, Japan provided assistance equivalent to approximately 1.76 billion yen for countermeasures against SARS in the form of emergency grant aid for goods such as protective suits and X-ray

(Photo)

equipment and the dispatch of a Japan disaster relief expert team. Such assistance was highly appreciated by the Government of China, as illustrated by President Hu Jintao expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Koizumi at the Japan-China Summit Meeting in St. Petersburg on May 31. As for the six Southeast Asian countries besides Viet Nam mentioned above and Mongolia, Japan provided medical equipment worth approximately 180 million yen (including transport costs) for such items as individual protection equipment, inspection equipment and medicine. Moreover, Japan provided medical equipment and dispatched medical experts to Taiwan.

In terms of global efforts, Japan has to date provided up to US\$6 million in assistance through the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), in coordination with the WHO based on its understanding that it is necessary to enhance the WHO's international surveil-

lance and precautionary system and strengthen an international network to promote research including vaccine development. This assistance is intended for the formulation and implementation of medium to long-term countermeasures against SARS and assistance for educational activities in countries and regions in East Asia including China where infections had occurred. In addition, at the World Health Assembly that convened on May 19, Japan's issues of concern such as strengthening the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network¹ for surveillance of and emergency response to infectious diseases were incorporated in the draft resolution on countermeasures against SARS. Japan also took the initiative in adjusting the text of the draft resolution as a co-sponsor and made vigorous contributions by encouraging and mediating among relevant countries with a view to realizing the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution.

¹ A global network of medical and research institutions that cooperate in the surveillance of infectious diseases and emergency responses under the coordination of the WHO by internationally pooling existing human and technical resources in medical, research and other institutions of various countries in order to respond swiftly to outbreaks of infectious diseases of international concern. Based on this global network, after the SARS outbreak, a research cooperation network was launched on March 17 under the leadership of the WHO to investigate and develop diagnostic methods for the SARS virus such as taking emergency responses, identifying pathogens and infection routes. Exchanges of information and research cooperation are being advanced with the participation of 13 (11 at the beginning) medical and research institutions.

3

Sustainable Development and Global Environmental Issues

(1) Sustainable Development

(a) Overview

The recent development of globalization has accelerated and increased the movement of people, goods and services across borders, bringing about large economic benefits. These benefits are, however, not enjoyed equally by all countries and peoples. In fact, the negative aspects, or the dark side of globalization, such as increased disparities in wealth, have been pointed out. It is extremely important that the entire international community, including developing countries, should be able to enjoy the benefits of globalization in an appropriate manner and realize sustainable development.

From this perspective, a series of global advancements were seen in the area of sustainable development based on

the achievements of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Summit) in 2002.

(b) Developments concerning Water

At the Johannesburg Summit, UN Secretary-General Annan identified water as the most urgent issue, advocating the importance of water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB). In addition, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, a major document issued at this summit, incorporated a new goal in the area of sanitation to “halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation,” in addition to “safe drinking water,” which is included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As a result of these factors, the interest of the international community in water and sanitation issues rapidly increased in 2003. The

Significance of Hosting the 3rd World Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference

Importance and Various Aspects of Water

- Limited water resources (only a fraction of the total freshwater supply, which is 2.5% of Earth's water)
- 1 in 5 people of the world (about 1.2 billion) do not have access to safe drinking water
- 2 in 5 people of the world (about 2.4 billion) do not have access to basic sanitation facilities such as sewerage
- About 6,000 children die every day from water-related diseases (about 2 million/year)
- Global population growth → Needs for accelerated food production → Necessity of more efficient water use
- Deforestation and degradation of the world's forests and increased damages from floods and other disasters

- Necessity of multifaceted consideration of water issues: drinking water and sanitation, agriculture (irrigation), the environment, disaster prevention, energy, etc.
- Different regions have different problems that require different approaches:
arid and semi-arid regions ↔ Monsoon and rainy regions
- Different needs for urban and rural areas

Water Issue as part of the Global Agenda

- ☆ Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro 1992): Water ranked high on the agenda
- ☆ 1st World Water Forum (Marrakech 1997)
- ☆ 2nd World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference (The Hague 2000)
“Making water everybody's business”
- ☆ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (September 2000)
- ☆ World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (August 2002)
- ☆ 2003: International Year of Freshwater

Established the goals to halve by 2015 the ratio of people without access to safe drinking water and without access to basic sanitation

Japan's Leadership in Solving Water Problems

- ☆ Japan's ODA
 - Assistance amounting to about 650 billion yen in the water sector for the past three years
 - Japan's ODA for drinking water and sanitation (past three-year average: about US\$1 billion) occupies
 - one-third of the world's total ODA to this area
 - 6% of Japan's total ODA (DAC average=3.7%)
- ☆ Announced the Japan-US Partnership “Clean Water for People” at the WSSD
- ☆ Japan has abundant experience in river management, water quality management, realizing multiple functions, water recycling technology, water supply/sewerage management, development and protection of forestry, etc. Japan developed advanced technologies such as the desalination of seawater, greening of desert, etc. → Possibilities for technological contributions

3rd World Water Forum (March 16-23 in Kyoto/Shiga/Osaka) Ministerial Conference (March 22-23 in Kyoto)

- ☆ G8 Evian Summit (June) (French presidency shows strong interest in water and Africa)
- ☆ Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III, September to October in Tokyo, “water” is key to African development)

Participating in the Children's World Water Forum

Taking part in the Children's World Water Forum, I was able to meet many people through exchanges with children from developing countries around the world and I learned a great many things. Although I had taken lessons on the importance of water through observing the environment in which fireflies live, this Forum impressively brought home to me just how important a commodity water is, which Japanese people are usually unaware of in daily life, and just how lucky we are to be able to access this water. Talking to girls from developing countries, I learned that some of them have to walk for as many as two days to far off places just to find water, but that this water, due to war and rapid population growth, is often polluted and sometimes causes diseases if drunk. Those who fall victim first to such cases are children.

The Forum gave me the opportunity to talk with children from developing countries about their own physical conditions and lives. The war in Iraq, which occurred at the same time as the Forum, was so shocking that I will never forget it.

As a first step to pass on my experiences at the Children's World Water Forum to many other people, I undertook a small activity at school. This was the collection of emergency funds for Iraq through UNICEF. When I made a proposal to the student council, all members agreed to raise funds for it. This small activity at school was just a starting point for me. Next, I would like to engage in an activity that will link the 109 children I met at the Children's World Water Forum and promote collaboration.

While I am writing this, I imagine there are a lot of children dying in many places around the world due to war or a lack of water. I will never fail to keep thinking about what I can do in order that children all over the world, including my friends at the Forum, can have access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Author: Hiroko Nakao (3rd grade at junior high school at the time), Fukuoka Prefecture

(Photo)

following is an overview of the major international conferences in the area of water in which Japan was involved.

Hosting the 3rd World Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference

In March 2003, Japan held the 3rd World Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference in Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka, with over 24,000 people from 182 countries and regions participating in the forum. Furthermore, the Japanese Government, primarily the Ambassador for Civil Society, held exchanges of opinions with many NGOs from the beginning of the preparatory stage and also had dialogues with them during the Forum by co-hosting the Dialogue between Forum Participants and Ministers with the National Steering Committee.

One hundred seventy countries and regions, 47 inter-governmental organizations and other organizations participated in the Ministerial Conference. This conference emphasized the importance of grassroots-level governance and urged that households and neighboring communities strive to achieve this end. In addition, the action-oriented Ministerial Declaration: Message from the Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin was adopted, which pledged that efforts would be made to achieve the targets in the areas of drinking water and sanitation. Furthermore, a total of 501 action plans (projects) were submitted from 43 countries and regions, 18 international organizations and others. The Portfolio of Water Actions (PWA), which compiled these projects, was announced and it was agreed that a network of websites would be established to follow up on the PWA. The Japanese Government decided that it would be responsible for managing this network until it becomes established and began operating this network in May.

Japan is the biggest donor country in the areas of drinking water and sanitation and announced the Initiative for Japan's ODA on Water as a comprehensive measure to contribute to economic cooperation in the area of water. Furthermore, Japan and the US made a joint announcement on the regions and areas that would be covered by the cooperation under the Japan-US Clean Water for People Initiative, which the two countries announced together at the Johannesburg Summit. Additionally, as a new endeavor, Japan and France agreed to advance Japan-France Water Sector Cooperation.

(c) Discussions at the G8 Evian Summit

Discussions on a wide range of issues were held at the G8

Evian Summit with a view to realizing sustainable development. These issues included methods to secure funds for attaining the MDGs, the need for good governance in developing countries, the role of science and technology to achieve a balance between growth and environmental conservation, the importance of the Kyoto Protocol, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and forestry issues. In light of the achievements of the 3rd World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference, Japan played a leading role in the formulation of the Action Plan on water issues in cooperation with France.

(d) United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

At Japan's proposal, the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development was included in the Plan of Implementation at the Johannesburg Summit. In this respect, a new resolution promoting the implementation of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development was submitted to the UN General Assembly in 2003. This resolution was unanimously adopted with over 40 countries becoming co-sponsors. Japan intends to make further efforts to implement the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

(2) Global Environmental Issues

(a) Overview

The recent situations of global environmental issues such as global warming and the destruction of the ozone layer need serious attention. These global issues may threaten the very existence of humanity. Japan has, therefore, proposed the idea of "global sharing," urging for the solidarity of the international community, with the aim of resolving global environmental issues.

Meanwhile, as one of the main causes of environmental problems is modern industrialization, which is a driving force of economic development, it is necessary to manage the differences between the developed and developing countries on this issue. With the guiding principle of the international community of "common but differentiated responsibilities," both developed and developing countries have been struggling to clarify their individual responsibilities. Furthermore, Japan believes that it is also important to address environmental issues from the perspective of "human security."

Japan continues to emphasize its efforts in tackling global environmental issues as one of the most important

diplomatic challenges, and worked on the following two major tasks in 2003.

(b) International Rule-Making

The first pillar is contribution to international rule-making. In 2003, the Diet approved the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which aims to prevent eventual adverse effects of genetically modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Regarding the former in particular, Japan was able to participate in the First Meeting of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in February 2004 since it promptly entered the protocol into force and deposited the instrument of ratification. Japan's participation in rule making for this protocol is required.

Discussions are also under way on coordination between international trade rules and environmental conventions that clearly or implicitly restrict free trade, which have not necessarily been comprehensively deliberated thus far.

(c) Improving Efficiency in Tackling Global Environmental Issues

In view of the severe financial situation, synergistic effects, which are obtained by information sharing and the elimination of unnecessary work in the process of implementing various environment-related conventions, are gradually regarded as more important than the separate implementation of each convention. For instance, vigorous discussions have taken place on the interaction among the so-called three Rio Conventions (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) that originated from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (Rio Summit). Japan has been actively striving to improve the synergetic effects of related conventions considering accountability as well as cost-effectiveness.

(d) Disaster Prevention

Based on its view that building disaster-resilient societies and countries is vital to fulfill the various tasks for realizing sustainable development whose aim is to achieve a balance between the environment and development, Japan

proposed at the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly that the UN boost efforts to advance disaster reduction by holding the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture in January 2005. In December, the UN General Assembly unanimously decided to hold this conference.

This conference will be held at the juncture of exactly the tenth anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The conference will review the disaster prevention activities that the UN has advanced thus far, have diverse cases of disaster reduction activities reported with the participation of representatives of countries, civil society and others, and establish a new UN disaster reduction strategy. It is expected that the experience and knowledge gained during reconstruction after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake will contribute significantly to the success of the conference.

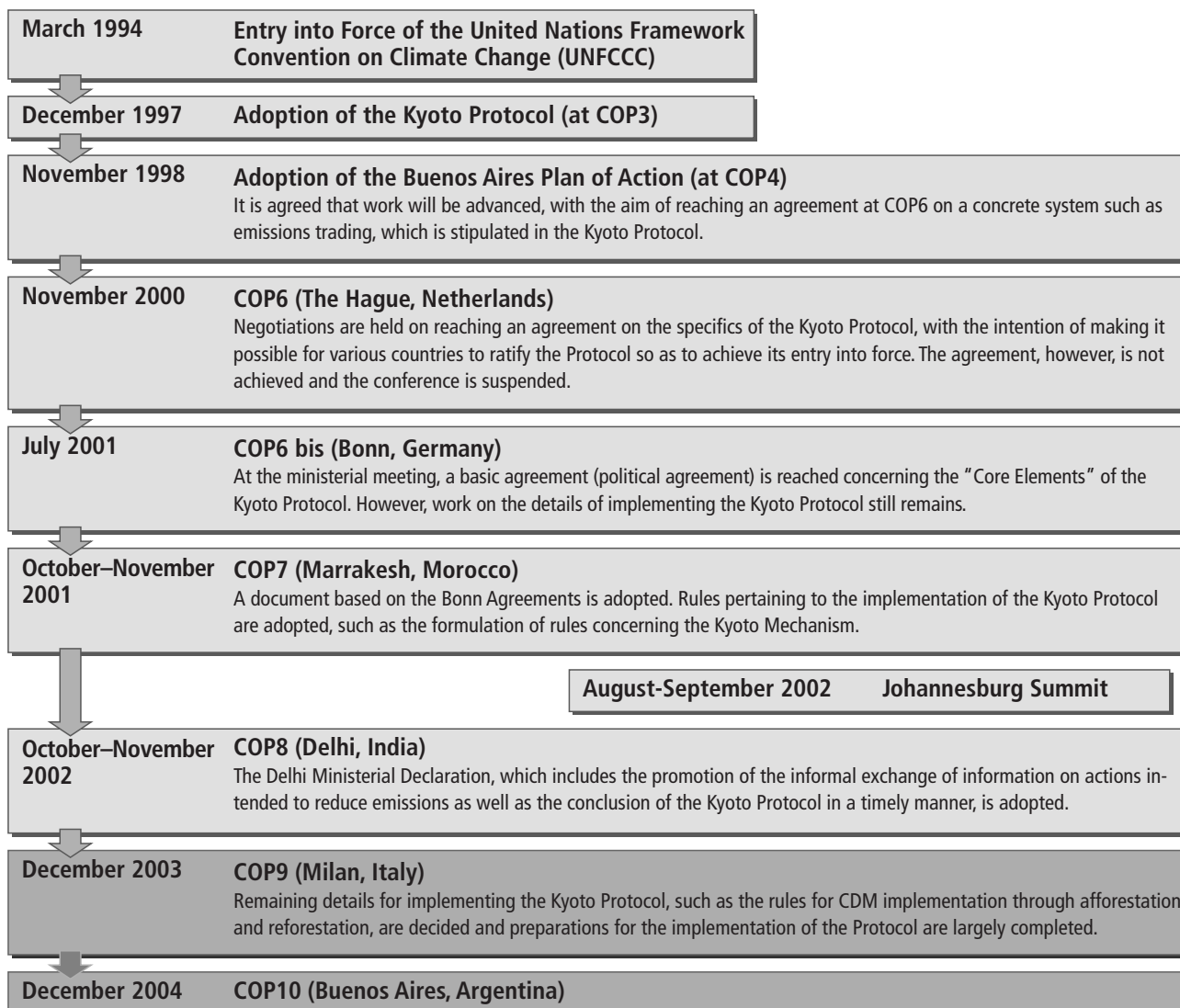
(e) Climate Change Issues

The year 2003 saw numerous examples of extreme weather, such as the heat wave and drought mainly in Europe, which brought renewed attention to the seriousness of global warming and the urgency of responding to this issue. Conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol was promoted after the Marrakesh Accord of 2001, and subsequent progress in global efforts to tackle climate change spurred the international momentum for entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. The ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP9) was held in Milan, Italy in December under such circumstances. At this conference, preparations for operating the Kyoto Protocol were largely completed with the political message calling for countries to take further measures and with the formulation of rules to implement the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) through afforestation and reforestation.

The Kyoto Protocol is a significant first step for strengthening actions by the international community to stop global warming. The Kyoto Protocol is expected to enter into force with Russia's ratification, but despite repeated approaches from Japan and the EU, among others, Russia has yet to make a decision to ratify the Protocol. As the chair of COP3, Japan has been urging Russia and other countries on every opportunity to ratify the Protocol at an early date.

Meanwhile, the US has not changed its policy of not participating in the Kyoto Protocol since declaring that it would not support the Protocol in March 2001. In order to

Major Developments in International Negotiations concerning the United Nations



Note: COP refers to the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. COP/MOP refers to the Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, which will be held after it has entered into force.

ensure the effectiveness of actions against global warming, it is necessary to establish a common rule on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in which all countries, including the US, the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, and developing countries participate. From this viewpoint, Japan has urged the US to participate in the Kyoto Protocol and to reduce emissions further on various occasions including the Third Japan-US High-Level Consultations on Climate Change.

The Kyoto Protocol does not have greenhouse gas reduction targets for developing countries. Nevertheless, given that the greenhouse gas emissions of developing countries are expected to exceed those of developed coun-

tries by around 2010, developing countries also need to strive to reduce emissions in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the global level. Following the adoption of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development at COP8 in 2002, Japan and Brazil co-chaired the Informal Meeting on Further Actions against Climate Change in Tokyo in July. This meeting was attended by governmental officials of major developed and developing countries that account for nearly 80% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. A candid exchange of opinions was held on concrete actions aimed at reducing emissions, and this meeting was highly appreciated by various countries.

4

Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drugs

(1) Transnational Organized Crime

Transnational organized crime has become a major problem in modern society as a result of the development of globalization and high-tech equipment, and the greater movement of people. International cooperation is strongly desired in order to respond to these developments and vigorous actions are being taken through international frameworks such as the UN, the G8 and the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF).

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementing protocols intend to create an international legal framework to prevent organized crime and promote cooperation in tackling this. The Diet approved the conclusion of this Convention in May, and it will be concluded after domestic laws necessary for its implementation have been established. Japan is promoting international cooperation to eradicate trafficking in persons through efforts such as holding international symposia to raise social awareness on trafficking in persons and financing preventive measures undertaken by international organizations.

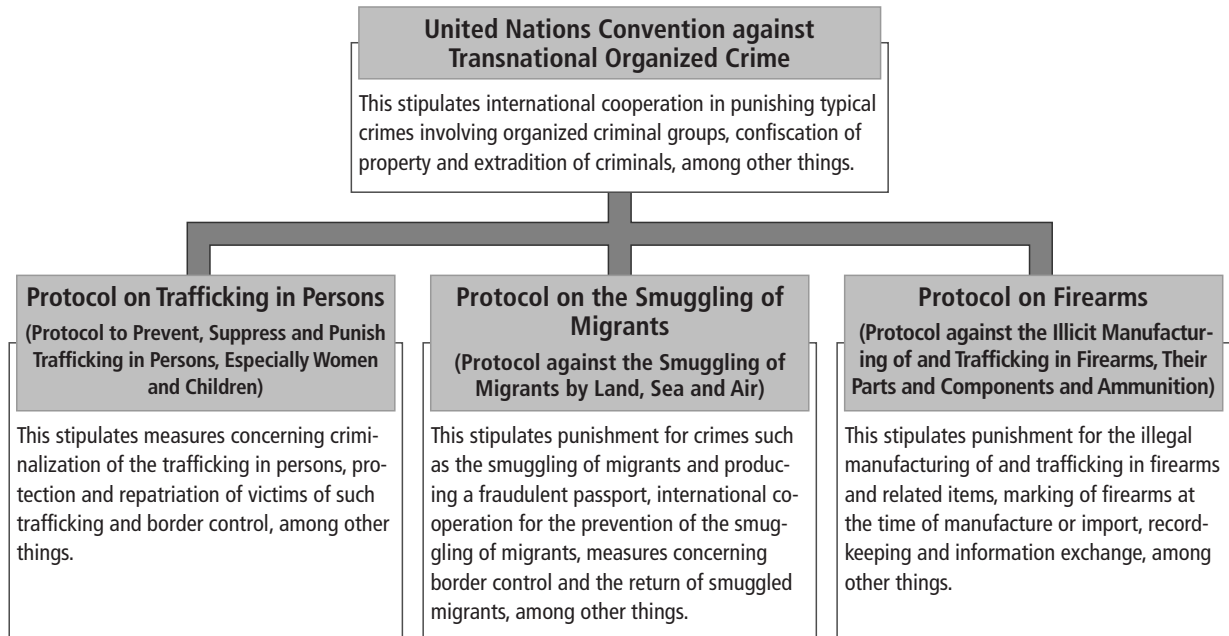
With respect to corruption, the UN Convention against Corruption was adopted at the UN General Assembly in October based on the recognition that corruption is a critical factor hindering the progress of development and democracy. This is a comprehensive convention that includes anti-corruption preventive measures, a criminalization clause and international cooperation, and Japan proactively participated in the concluding negotiations. The High-Level Political Conference for the Purpose of Signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Mexico in December, where Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masatoshi Abe attended, and a total of 95 countries including Japan signed the convention.

The G8 Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime, commonly known as the Lyon Group, has contributed to the discussions on transnational organized crime among leaders, foreign ministers and others in the G8 process. In 2003, with a view to combating high-tech crimes, the 11 Principles for Protecting

Critical Information Infrastructure to protect critical information from cyber attacks were adopted at the Lyon Group and approved at the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs meeting. In particular, after the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US, joint meetings between the Lyon Group and the Roma Group, which is a group of counter-terrorism experts of the G8, have been held with a view to effectively use the knowledge and experience accumulated through countermeasures for transnational organized crime as a countermeasure against terrorism.

The FATF has played a leading role in the promotion of international measures and cooperation concerning money laundering and terrorist financing. The main content of the FATF's activities includes the formulation of the Forty Recommendations that would serve as an international standard concerning money laundering countermeasures, reviewing them and investigating their status of progress, and formulating, reviewing and investigating the status of progress of the Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing (Eight Special Recommendations). The FATF also takes measures aimed at non-cooperative countries and territories (NCCTs) by assisting regional countering institutions and setting up regional review groups as part of regional and global countermeasures against money laundering and terrorist financing. With the revision in June 2003, the Forty Recommendations became a new framework that incorporated terrorist financing countermeasures in addition to conventional money laundering countermeasures. In addition, measures were reinforced to include regulations covering non-financial institutions and professionals such as lawyers, accountants, real estate agents, jewelers and precious metal dealers, and casinos. Japan has supported the revision of the Forty Recommendations and is vigorously taking part in activities as a central member of the FATF by serving as the chair of the NCCTs review group on Asia-Pacific, which has been established to work with non-cooperative countries and territories. Japan intends to contribute proactively to the promotion of countermeasures against money laundering and terrorist financing at the international level in addition to steps at the regional level.

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Its Three Supplementing Protocols



Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masatoshi Abe gives a speech at the signing ceremony of the UN Convention against Corruption (December)

(2) Illicit Drugs

In April, in addition to the usual UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the UN held a ministerial-level meeting to follow up on the political declaration and action plan that were adopted at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem in 1998, given that 2003 marked the fifth year since their adoption. Japan explained the successful cases of combating synthetic drugs after World War II and stressed the importance of taking countermeasures against synthetic drugs for the future in East Asia.

Furthermore, during his visit to Japan in February, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) Antonio Maria Costa (also serves as the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) identified synthetic drugs as Public Enemy No. 1 and where

the UN's endeavors are most needed, taking Japan's assertion into account. Executive Director Costa expressed the UN's intention to boost its measures on this front.

Japan has continued to support narcotics counter-measure projects by the UN and contributed US\$3.04 million to the Fund of UNDCP in 2003. From this contribution, Japan provided US\$400,000 to the Fund of UNDCP as assistance for strengthening border control in countries around the Golden Triangle located along the border between Thailand and Myanmar. In addition, Japan provided US\$500,000 from this contribution for projects to assist the development of alternative crops in a major poppy-cultivation area of the Wa region in Myanmar. Moreover, Japan provided US\$600,000 for projects that contribute to training experts who analyze confiscated synthetic drugs mainly in Southeast Asia.

5

Human Rights

(a) Overview

Many people, especially ordinary citizens, have become victims of conflicts and incidents that frequently occur throughout the world and that are derived from racial, religious and ethnic differences. Furthermore, cases of serious violations of human rights concerning the lives and freedom of people are still a cause of concern for the international community. The human rights issue is a major challenge that should be tackled by the international community including Japan.

Japan's three basic principles on human rights issues are as follows: (1) human rights should be respected regardless of culture, traditions, political and economic systems or stage of development, and the protection of human rights is the most basic responsibility of each country; (2) human rights are universal values and a legitimate concern of the international community which should not be regarded as the interference with the internal affairs of another country; and (3) all rights, including civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and it is necessary to protect and promote them. Given these principles, Japan is making efforts to improve the situation of human rights in various coun-

tries, including the development and promotion of international human rights norms through international fora such as the UN Commission on Human Rights as well as bilateral dialogue.

(b) Developments in Intergovernmental Fora of the UN concerning Human Rights

Approximately 100 resolutions and decisions were adopted during the 59th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, which was held in Geneva from March to April. It was a more politicized, confrontational session than usual, given that the chair, which had hitherto been elected through consensus, was put to an uncommon election and that the proposal to convene a special session on the issue of Iraq was rejected as a result of a heated debate.

The first-ever resolution entitled Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was adopted during this session. As a co-sponsor of the resolution, Japan participated dynamically in the discussions and contributed to the drafting of the resolution. In this way, Japan directly addressed the issue of abductions of Japanese nationals by North Korea at the UN Commission on Human Rights and appealed to various

countries for support. In addition, in accordance with its three basic principles, Japan continued to play a central role in formulating, as the main sponsor, the draft resolution on the Situation of human rights in Cambodia, and was vigorously engaged in the deliberations on other draft resolutions to ensure their content was effective and balanced.

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, which was held in New York from September to December, faced intensified confrontations, as demonstrated by the collapse of the consensus that had been built on the resolution on the International Covenants on Human Rights and the resolution on the Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Under these circumstances, Japan contributed constructively by serving as a bridge between regions and countries with conflicting opinions. In particular, as the main sponsor of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, the submission of which to the General Assembly is not expected in the future, Japan continued to promote tenaciously coordination among the relevant countries and was able to realize its adoption by consensus. Furthermore, in a speech by the permanent representative of Japan to the UN, Japan asserted that the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea was a grave violation of human rights and appealed to all UN member states on the importance of resolving the issue.

(c) Bilateral Dialogue on Human Rights

Achieving mutual understanding through bilateral dialogue is also important to advance the protection and promotion of human rights. From this perspective, Japan held human rights dialogue with Sudan for the second time in Tokyo in January as well as human rights dialogue with Cuba for the second time in Havana in May. In addition, Japan and Sudan held the Regional Symposium on Effective measures for the Abolition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to ensure Safe Motherhood (details will be described later) in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum in August, as part of the follow-up to the human rights dialogue between Japan and Sudan. This symposium proved to be a breakthrough since it was the first-ever project for Japan that directly cooperated in the concrete efforts of a developing country government to improve its human rights situation.

(d) Submission and Examination of Government Reports Based on Human Rights Treaties

The examination of states parties' reports on the implementation of the treaties conducted by each of the committees established based on the six major human rights treaties plays an important role as a mechanism to protect and promote human rights in the international community in harmony with the activities of inter-governmental human rights fora. These six treaties request that each state party submit a periodic report on the situation of implementation of the treaties within the country to the UN Secretary-General. An examination of the fifth periodic report submitted in 2002 and the fourth one submitted in 1998 was conducted at the 29th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in July 2003. Moreover, an examination was held on the second governmental report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on January 28, 2004. This report was submitted by the Japanese Government in November 2001.

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

Technical and other cooperation activities of the UN in the area of human rights play a significant role in supporting and encouraging various countries to improve the situation of human rights. UNHCHR also serves as the secretariat for the above-mentioned committees that have been established based on human rights treaties. Japan supports the activities of the UNHCHR and related activities and has contributed approximately 32 million yen to various funds administered by the UNHCHR, including the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

(f) Children and Women

Japan has stepped up its measures concerning children's human rights in recent years. In February 2003 in Tokyo, Japan and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) co-sponsored the International Symposium on Trafficking in Children that addressed the major problem of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. This symposium invited NGOs of Southeast Asian countries, where the problem has intensified, and a broad range of discussions were held on the current situation of

Conventions related to Human Rights Created Within the Framework of the UN

(As of November 24, 2003)

	Name	Adoption	Entry into force	Number of signatory countries	Conventions that Japan concluded (conclusion)
1	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	December 16, 1966	January 3, 1976	148	○(June 21, 1979)
2	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	December 16, 1966	March 23, 1976	151	○(June 21, 1979)
3	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	December 16, 1966	March 23, 1976	104	
4	Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty	December 15, 1989	July 11, 1991	51	
5	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	December 21, 1965	January 4, 1969	169	○(December 15, 1995)
6	International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid	November 30, 1973	July 18, 1976	101	
7	International Convention against Apartheid in Sports	December 10, 1985	April 3, 1988	58	
8	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	December 18, 1979	September 3, 1981	174	○(June 25, 1985)
9	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	October 6, 1999	December 22, 2000	57	
10	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	December 9, 1948	January 12, 1951	135	
11	Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity	November 26, 1968	November 11, 1970	48	
12	Amended Slavery Convention ^a				
	(1) Slavery Convention of 1926	September 25, 1926	March 9, 1927	— ^b	
	Protocol amending the Slavery Convention of 1926	December 7, 1953	December 7, 1953	59	
	(2) Amended Slavery Convention of 1926 ^a	December 7, 1953	July 7, 1955	95	
13	Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery	September 7, 1956	April 30, 1957	119	
14	Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others	December 2, 1949	July 25, 1951	76	○(May 1, 1958)
15	Convention relating to the Status of Refugees	July 28, 1951	April 22, 1954	142	○(October 3, 1981)
16	Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees	January 31, 1967	October 4, 1967	141	○(January 1, 1982)
17	Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	August 30, 1961	December 13, 1975	27	
18	Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	September 28, 1954	June 6, 1960	55	
19	Convention on the Nationality of Married Women	January 19, 1957	August 11, 1958	72	
20	Convention on the Political Rights of Women	March 31, 1953	July 7, 1954	116	○(July 13, 1955)
21	Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages	November 7, 1962	December 9, 1964	51	
22	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	December 10, 1984	June 26, 1987	134	○(June 29, 1999)
23	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	December 18, 2002	Not entered into force	2 (ratifier)	
24	Convention on the Rights of the Child	November 20, 1989	September 2, 1990	192	○(April 22, 1994)
25	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	May 25, 2000	February 12, 2002	66	Signed (May 10, 2002)
26	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	May 25, 2000	January 18, 2002	68	Signed (May 10, 2002)
27	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	December 18, 1990	July 1, 2003	23	

^a Amended Slavery Convention of 1926 is the Slavery Convention of 1926 amended by the Protocol amending the Slavery Convention of 1926. There are two ways of becoming a signatory country: (1) conclude the amended convention; or (2) conclude the Slavery Convention and accept the protocol.

^b The number of signatory countries is not specified on the UN website.

the problem as well as the approach to future steps that should be taken. Furthermore, the Japanese Government contributed US\$470,000 and provided support for UNICEF's anti-trafficking project in Myanmar.

Traditional harmful practices that torment children and women continue to be carried out in some developing countries. One such harmful practice is female genital mutilation (FGM), which ruins women's health and violates their rights. FGM was taken up at the Regional Symposium on Effective measures for the Abolition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to ensure Safe Motherhood, co-sponsored by Japan, Sudan and UNICEF. This symposium, which was held in Khartoum, succeeded in raising awareness and deepening the understanding of the problem in Sudan, local organizations, NGOs and residents, and arousing the strong will of the government of Sudan and its people to eliminate the problem. Japan hopes that this initiative will spread not only throughout Sudan but also to neighboring countries that have similar practices and that it will have a positive effect on expanding the movement to eliminate FGM. Japan intends to provide support to this end.

(g) Disabled Persons

The Japanese Government recognizes that the protection and enhancement of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities is one of the most important tasks of the international community today. Minister for Foreign

Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi clearly expressed Japan's intention to participate actively in the formulation of the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, in addition to tackling numerous major diplomatic issues, during her speech at the general debate of the 58th session of the General Assembly that was held in New York in September. Full-fledged negotiations on drafting this convention are scheduled to begin at the UN in 2004.

(h) International Conference of New or Restored Democracies

The 5th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies was held in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar in September and was attended by the representatives of 119 countries, the UN and international organizations. Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tetsuro Yano of Japan attended this conference and summarized the importance of education, which nurtures each person constituting the basis of democracy, and the importance of countering terrorism, an external threat to democracy. Senior Vice-Foreign Minister Yano also introduced Japan's undertakings concerning the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) and human security. Two documents, the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Ulaanbaatar Plan of Action, were adopted on the final day of the conference.