

C Efforts to Tackle Various Global Issues to Promote Human Security

1 Promotion of Human Security

(a) Overview

The advance of globalization has brought about an age in which people, goods, money, and information move across borders on an unprecedented scale and mutually impact the lives of people. However, there is also a downside of globalization. The international community is confronted with new threats including HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; environmental pollution; transnational organized crime; and terrorism. In addition, since the end of the Cold War, there have been frequent outbreaks of domestic and regional conflicts, which have replaced warfare between states. Since governments sometimes are unable to properly cope with the situation (such as, in extreme cases, in so-called failed states), the flow of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) has become a serious problem. Another example of a threat is when many people suffer greatly from large-scale natural disasters, which may make it difficult for the disaster-hit country to carry out relief activities alone. The November 2004 report of the High-Level Panel on United Nations (UN) reform, an advisory body to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, grouped the threats faced by today's international community into the following six categories: (1) poverty, infectious diseases, and environmental degradation; (2) war between states; (3) violence within states; (4) weapons of mass destruction (WMD) (nuclear, biological, chemical, and so on); (5) terrorism; and (6) transnational organized crime. Also, it pointed out that the world system is changing from relations between states to relations between people transcending national borders. Thus, in addition to protection by the state, it is necessary for the international community to put the focus on individuals and endeavor to strengthen the capacities of people and societies through cooperation by countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society so that

people can lead self-sufficient lives. This is the thinking behind the concept of "human security."

(b) Human Security

Report of the Commission on Human Security and the Advisory Board on Human Security

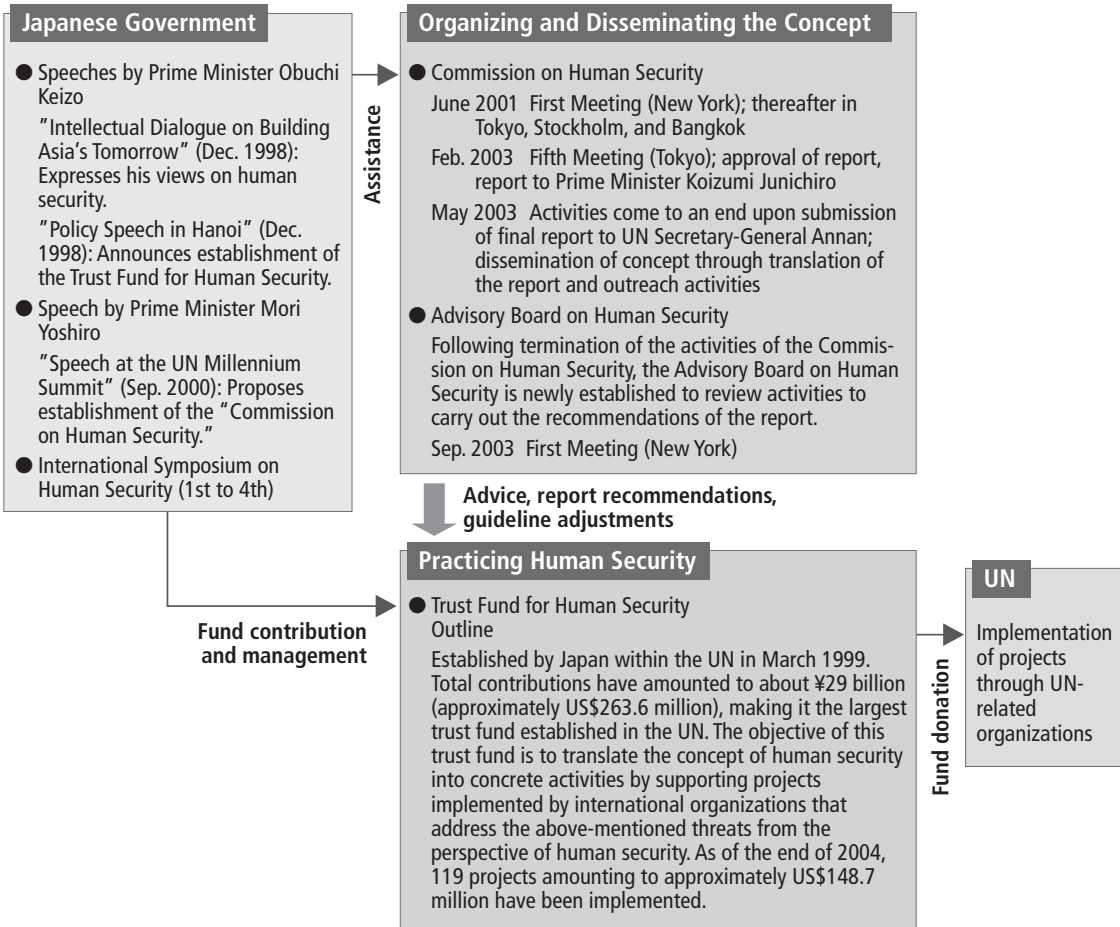
Japan promotes diplomacy with an emphasis on the perspective of "human security." With the aim of establishing the concept of "human security" as a complement to the conventional concept of state security, Japan is now implementing efforts based on the final report of the Commission on Human Security,¹ which was submitted to Secretary-General Annan in May 2003. Furthermore, Japan provides support to the Advisory Board on Human Security (chaired by President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency [JICA] Ogata Sadako), which was established to follow up the Commission on Human Security report, to disseminate the concept of "human security," and to propose directions for the Trust Fund for Human Security.

Since its establishment in the UN Secretariat by contributions from the Japanese government in 1999, the Trust Fund for Human Security has provided funds for aid projects of UN-related agencies. In fiscal year 2004 Japan contributed approximately ¥3 billion to this fund, and cumulative contributions have reached approximately ¥29 billion. The fund's guidelines² were revised, moreover, in order to realize the proposals of the Commission on Human Security more effectively through the fund's projects. Specifically, the guidelines incorporated such new items as having a number of international organizations and NGOs participate and consider a wider range of interconnected regions and areas when implementing projects. It also called for strengthening human capacity and effective coordination of humanitarian and development assistance, which would facilitate seamless assistance in the transitional

1. Drawing attention to individuals who are exposed to threats, the report recommended (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; and (10) clarifying the need for a global human identity while respecting the freedom of individuals to have diverse identities and affiliations.

2. Formulated in April 2001, these guidelines were revised in November 2003 and again in January 2005.

Human Security



Activities Performed through the Trust Fund for Human Security

(1) Activities Supported by the Fund

An important criterion in reviewing projects is that individuals who are afflicted by threats to human life, livelihood, and dignity will directly benefit from them. Activities supported by the fund include the following: Poverty (community reconstruction, vocational training, food production, and protection of children), medical and health care (maternal and child health, control of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, and improvement of public health), assistance for refugees and IDPs, and assistance in conflict-related areas, such as social reintegration of ex-combatants through vocational training. In the future, with the participation of numerous international organizations and NGOs, it is expected that the scope of activities will expand to include even more regions and areas that are mutually linked.

(2) Specific Examples

Concrete activities supported by the fund include (1) in Sierra Leone, a project that assists ex-combatants to resettle and reintegrate into society through vocational training and education; (2) in Nigeria, a project that aims to prevent malaria by increasing the utilization of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and by promoting household management of malaria, which causes poverty and impedes development; (3) in Viet Nam and Cambodia, a project that promotes the self-sufficiency of young people who were street children or victims of human trafficking as members of society through vocational training and basic education at "House for Youth" facilities; and (4) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a project that provides crop seeds, farming tools, and livestock, as well as technical support for agricultural production activities, to people in urban areas affected by the breakdown of the food supply network due to conflict and economic crisis.

period from conflict to peace. From now on Japan is scheduled to actively provide reconstruction assistance in accordance with these guidelines to such countries as Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

In recent years the concept of “human security” has been taken up at various international fora. In 2004 it was reflected in such documents as the Shanghai Declaration issued by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at its annual meeting in April, the joint declaration of the Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS held in Bangkok in July, and the joint declaration of the 12th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Meeting held in Santiago in November.

The Human Security Network,³ led by Canada, has been active since its establishment in 1999, and Japan participated as a special guest in a ministerial meeting of this network held in Mali in June 2004. Canada will serve as the network’s chair in 2005. When Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin visited Japan in January 2005, the Japan-Canada Agenda for Peace and Security Cooperation was issued, in which both governments agreed to explore the coordination of approaches and activities on

human security to protect and empower people threatened in their survival, livelihood, and dignity.

In Japan’s policy on Official Development Assistance (ODA) as well, the emphasis is placed on “human security” in accordance with the ODA Charter, which was revised in 2003. In particular, the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects strongly reflects this concept.



Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Matsumiya Isao visits the “House for Youth” in Viet Nam, a Trust Fund for Human Security project, in July.

2 Controlling Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, polio, tuberculosis, malaria, and parasitic diseases are not simply health and medical problems that pose a threat to the lives of individuals but also an impediment to economic and social development, particularly for developing countries. As a result of the advancement of globalization, infectious diseases can now easily cross borders into other countries and so have become a global issue that needs to be tackled by the whole international community.

In recognition of this fact, Japan announced the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative (IDI) at the Group of Eight (G8) Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000. Through this initiative, Japan declared that it would enhance its assistance to counter infectious diseases by aiming to allocate a total of US\$3 billion over the next five years. Japan is promoting comprehensive countermeasures by ensuring its coordination with the governments of recipient countries, other donor countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private-sector entities, and others. Japan has engaged in educational activities regarding

preventive measures, as well as supplying medical equipment and vaccines. Japan has also contributed to human resource development, including training of medical staff and health workers. Countermeasures against new infectious diseases, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and avian influenza, were also effectively implemented. As a result, Japan’s assistance to developing countries in tackling infectious diseases under IDI amounted to a total of more than US\$2.4 billion (as of March 2003).

Also, spurred by Japan’s advocacy of fighting the spread of infectious diseases at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) was established in January 2002 following discussions at subsequent fora including the G8 Summit and the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS). Japan was among the first to announce its contribution to this fund in the amount of US\$200 million. Japan also plays an important role in the management and operation of the GFATM as a member of the board, together with other

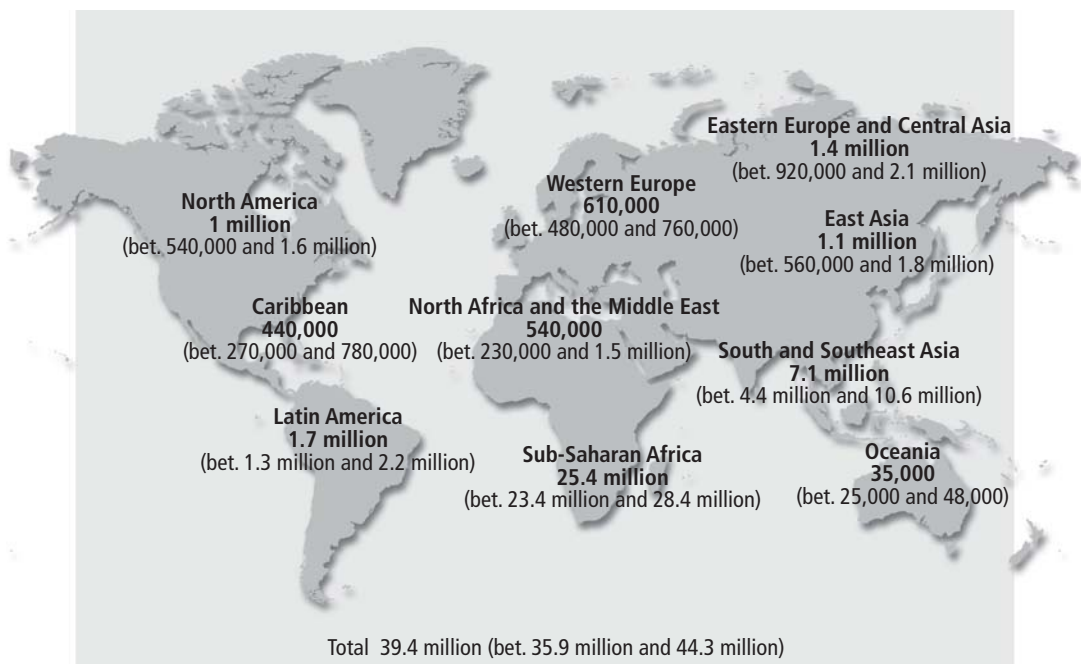
3. The network holds ministerial-level meetings every year and studies themes relating to human security. There are 13 members: Austria, Canada, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, and South Africa (observer).

major donor countries, such as the United States (US) and France. The GFATM has already approved about 300 projects in 130 countries totaling US\$3 billion aimed at preventing and treating AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in developing countries. As of January 2005, Japan has made a contribution of US\$265 million to the GFATM. The importance of the GFATM was reaffirmed at the G8 Sea Island Summit in June 2004, and, at the ASEAN+3 Summit held in November 2004, Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro emphasized the need to increase

awareness of the threat of the AIDS pandemic in Asia and the importance of utilizing GFATM in implementing effective countermeasures.

In addition, at the Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on HIV/AIDS held in Thailand in July 2004, Japan demonstrated its active contributions in fighting against HIV/AIDS and incorporated its development concepts, such as South-South cooperation and human security, into the joint declaration of the meeting.

Estimated Number of People (Adults and Children) Infected with HIV/AIDS as of the End of 2004



Source: UNAIDS, *AIDS Epidemic Update*, December 2004.

3 Sustainable Development and Global Environmental Issues

(a) International Rule Making

At a time when the negative aspects of globalization, such as the widening gap between rich and poor and increasingly serious global environmental issues, are becoming more visible, it is extremely important to realize a form of sustainable development that balances the environment and development and ensures that the benefits of globalization can be enjoyed in an appropriate manner by the international community as a whole including developing countries.

Such global environmental issues as global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, and the extinction of

forms of life continue to be serious. Japan has defined these issues as threats to the very existence of humankind and, calling on the international community to cooperate in tackling them, has proposed the idea of “global sharing,” which means sharing strategies, responsibilities, experiences, and information on a global scale. In formulating international rules related to the global environment, the international community has been already moving from the stage of establishing frameworks to the stage of ensuring their effectiveness. Japan has been making efforts in ensuring effective implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and at the same time, bearing in mind its severe fiscal sit-

uation in recent years, has been making efforts toward efficient implementation by mutually sharing information between conventions and eliminating redundant work. In other words, Japan has been actively involved in achieving synergy and has been striving for greater efficiency. Also, rather than forming international rules according to just one set of values, Japan has repeatedly tried to persuade the international community of the importance of, for example, sustainable use, which seeks to balance the preservation and use of resources on the basis of scientific reasoning. From these perspectives, Japan has been making an active contribution toward the building of international rules related to the global environment. In 2004 Japan undertook various initiatives in the field of sustainable development, such as those pertaining to water, disaster reduction, and the “3Rs,” and promoted a powerful environmental diplomacy.

(b) Climate Change Issues

Japan has been giving priority to tackling climate change issues for a long time. In November 2004, after repeated calls by Japan, Russia ratified the Kyoto Protocol. As a result of this, the Protocol went into effect on February 16, 2005, more than seven years after its adoption at the 3rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) in Kyoto. With this event, the first step was made toward the prevention of global warming.

The 10th session of the conference, COP10, was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from December 6 to 18, 2004. This was an important meeting because it marked the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and also because it was held just before the entry into force of the protocol itself. Taking into account the fact that discussions on a future framework envisaging the post-Kyoto framework beyond 2012 are set to begin by the end of 2005, COP10 decided to initiate efforts including the exchange of information toward medium- and long-term future action with the participation of all countries. COP10 also adopted the formulation of the



Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Onodera Itsunori attending an interview after attending COP10 in December.

Five-Year Programme of Work,⁴ as well as financial assistance and support for capacity building in developing countries, to deal with adverse effects of climate change such as floods and droughts. Japan announced its continuing assistance to developing countries by reporting its steady implementation of the Kyoto Initiative,⁵ which consists of assistance mainly through Official Development Assistance (ODA), and was highly appreciated by participating countries of COP10. At the same time, the government of Japan also actively urged other countries to launch discussions on a future framework based on the recognition that, even after the Kyoto Protocol has entered into effect, the establishment of common rules covering all countries is essential to further ensure the effectiveness of measures against global warming.⁶ Japan is of the opinion that the inclusion of the United States (US) as well as developing countries is important to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale, and it has taken various opportunities, for example through high- and working-level government consultations, to urge the US to participate in the Kyoto Protocol and to make efforts for further reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions.

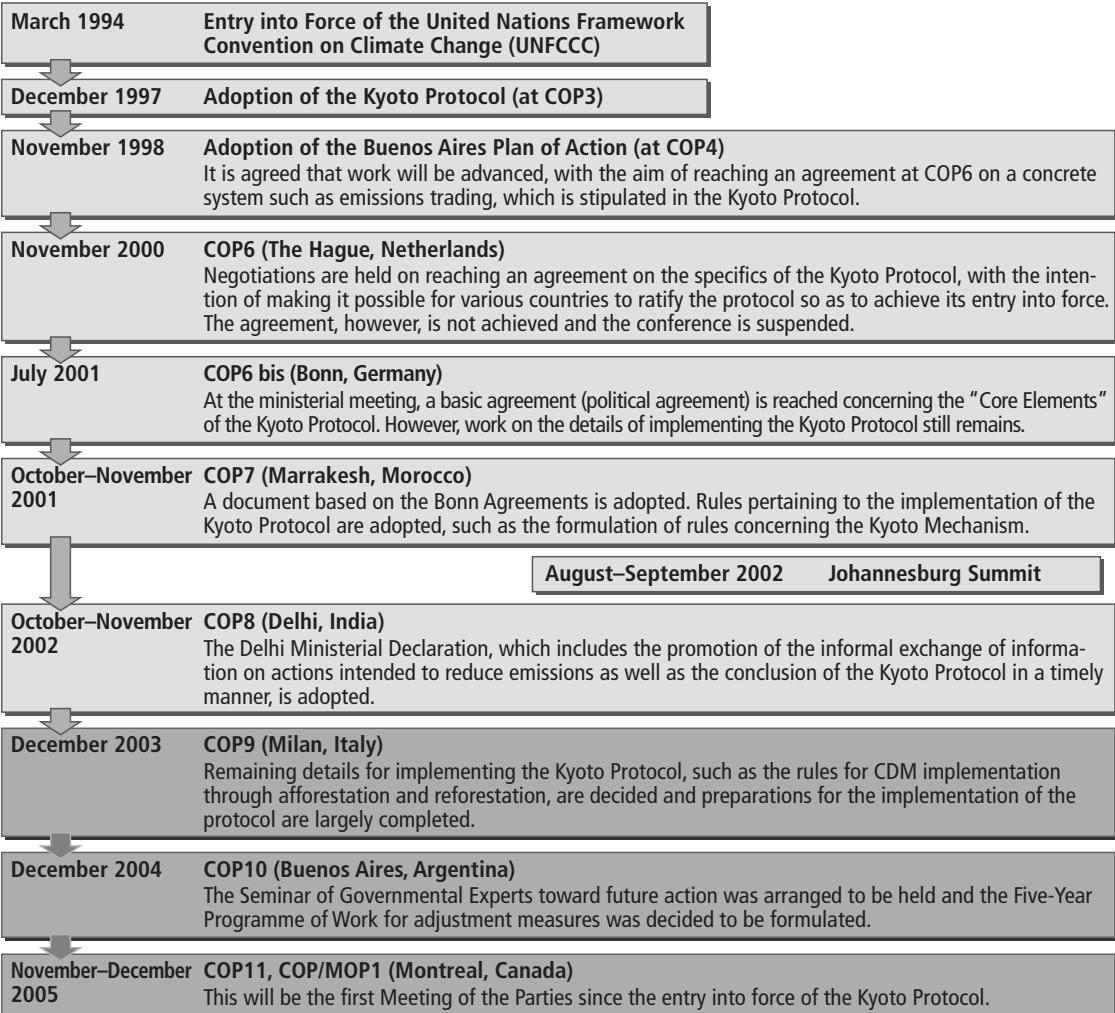
Also, following the same arrangement as in 2003, Japan and Brazil co-chaired the Informal Meeting on Further Actions against Climate Change in Tokyo in

4. The Five-Year Programme of Work will study how to adjust and respond to adverse effects, as well as vulnerability to climate change, from a scientific, technological, and socioeconomic perspective. It is scheduled to include particularly climate modeling (future forecasts), vulnerability assessment, and the integration of responses to the adverse effects of climate change, such as floods and droughts, into sustainable development.

5. The Kyoto Initiative was announced by Japan in 1997 as a policy to further strengthen assistance for the efforts of developing countries to address global warming mainly through ODA. Specifically, its content includes (1) cooperation in capacity development, (2) ODA loans with concessional terms, and (3) effective use and transfer of Japanese technology and experiences.

6. Despite the fact that the greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries are expected to exceed those from developed countries around 2010, the Kyoto Protocol does not set any reduction targets for developing countries. Furthermore, the US, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, has not changed its position since it announced it would not ratify the Kyoto Protocol in March 2001.

Major Developments in Negotiations Concerning the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol



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 to the Kyoto Protocol, which will be held after it has entered into force.

September 2004,⁷ which major developed and developing countries attended. A candid exchange of opinions was held on further concrete actions aimed at reducing emissions, and the meeting was highly appreciated by the participating countries.

(c) Japan's Initiative

In 2004 Japan showed strong initiative in the field of sustainable development and earned high praise from

the international community. In the field of water, the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation⁸ was established by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in March, and former Prime Minister Hashimoto Ryutaro was appointed as the chair. As an effort related to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, as in 2002 and 2003, Japan submitted a resolution promoting the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development to the UN General Assembly, and it was

7. The Informal Meeting on Further Actions against Climate Change is hosted by the Foreign Ministry of Japan with the aim of deepening studies on future action through the frank and practical exchange of opinions. In 2004, Japan and Brazil co-chaired the meeting with the participation of senior government officials from 18 developed and developing countries (the US, Russia, People's Republic of China, and India, and the European Community) that account for 80% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

8. The Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation is aimed at enhancing people's awareness of water and sanitation, supporting the mobilization of funds for projects, and promoting new partnerships. It is composed of learned persons and opinion leaders from around the world in such fields as water and fund procurement.

unanimously adopted. Furthermore, a Prime Mover Project in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue of Japan Environmental Education was held in Tokyo in June with the participation of many public- and private-sector representatives from Asian countries. Lively discussions were held on such topics as the role of various entities involved in environmental education, cooperation, the accumulation and exchange of information and knowledge, training, monitoring, and evaluation. In addition, regarding illegal logging, Japan has been taking the lead in strengthening international measures through the Yokohama-based International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)⁹ and the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP).¹⁰

(d) 3R Initiative

At the Group of Eight (G8) Sea Island Summit in June 2004, Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro stressed the importance of global environmental issues and proposed the 3R Initiative. The other participants from G8 countries showed their support for this proposal, and the G8 Action Plan on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development: "3R" Action Plan and Progress on Implementation was adopted.

The 3R Initiative encourages the more efficient use of resources and materials and aims for the international

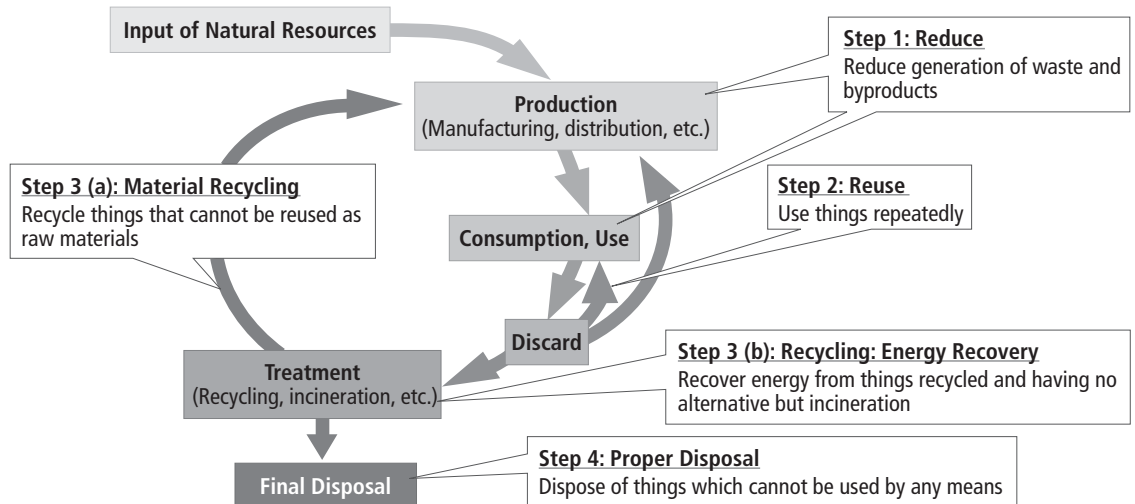
promotion of the building of a sound material-cycle society through the 3Rs: reduce waste, reuse, and recycle. As specific issues that should be tackled, the 3R Action Plan cites (1) promotion of the 3Rs, (2) reduction of the barriers to the international flow of goods, (3) cooperation between various stakeholders (such as central and local governments, the private sector, the community, and civil society), (4) promotion of science and technology suitable for the 3Rs, and (5) cooperation with developing countries.

On the basis of the 3R Action Plan, the 3R Ministerial Conference, hosted by the Japanese Minister of the Environment, is scheduled for April 2005, at which the 3R Initiative will be officially launched. It is hoped that Japan's role in shaping the efforts and directions needed for international promotion of the 3Rs will be an important contribution, especially as climate change is expected to be one of the main issues on the agenda again at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005.

(e) Disaster Reduction

The promotion of the building of societies and countries that are resilient to disasters is essential to achieve sustainable development that strikes a balance between the environment and development. From this perspective, at the 58th UN General Assembly in 2003, Japan proposed

Concept of the 3Rs in a Sound Material-Cycle Society



9. The ITTO was established in 1986 with the aims of balancing environmental preservation in countries with tropical forests and the promotion of tropical timber trade and contributing to the economic development of developing countries. Its headquarters are located in Yokohama.

10. The AFP is a partnership whereby Asian countries (mainly the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), donor countries, international organizations, NGOs, and others cooperate through measures against illegal logging, the prevention of forest fires, the restoration of wasteland (afforestation), and other activities with the aim of promoting sustainable forest management in Asia. It was officially launched at the Johannesburg Summit in August 2002 and has held four meetings to promote its activities so far.

Kyoto Protocol Q&A

Q: What are the objectives and main points of the Kyoto Protocol, which went into effect on February 16, 2005?

A: The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at COP3 in Kyoto in 1997 in order to achieve the objective of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, namely the “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” The Kyoto Protocol has two main points: First, it stipulates that major countries including developed ones should reduce their overall emissions of greenhouse gases*¹ by at least 5% below 1990 levels in the commitment period from 2008 to 2012 (Japan’s reduction target is 6%). Second, in order to achieve this commitment, in addition to efforts to reduce emissions domestically it allows for eliminating greenhouse gas emissions through, for example, forestation and cropland and pasture land management. It also offers three schemes called the Kyoto Mechanisms.

Q: Please explain the Kyoto Mechanisms plainly.

A: The Kyoto Mechanisms are flexible mechanisms for achieving the Kyoto Protocol commitment to reduce emissions consisting of three schemes: (1) “the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM),” by which both developed and developing countries jointly implement projects to reduce emissions and portions of resultant reduction units that are transferred to the investing country (mostly the developed country) may be used to fulfill the reduction commitment of the latter; (2)

“Joint Implementation (JI),” whereby developed countries jointly implement projects to reduce emissions and the investing country may use a certain portion of the reduction to fulfill its own commitments; and (3) “Emissions Trading,” whereby developed countries can trade their own emission quotas with each other to achieve their commitments. Given that the cost of reducing emissions differs from country to country, the Kyoto Mechanisms base themselves on the idea of permitting the transfer of reduction volumes and emission quotas from low-cost to high-cost countries, from the perspective of promoting economically efficient reductions in the world as a whole.

Japan’s target of reducing emissions by 6% from the 1990 level, as stipulated in the Kyoto Protocol, became an international legal commitment upon the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. In order to fulfill this commitment, it is necessary for people from all domestic sectors to come together and make efforts toward the achievement of the target. Since 1998 the government has been promoting various domestic countermeasures and policies on the basis of the Guideline for Measures to Prevent Global Warming. In order to achieve Japan’s commitment more effectively at lower cost, the government intends to make appropriate use of the Kyoto Mechanisms according to the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan.*² It is scheduled to be adopted in the spring of 2005, while bearing in mind that efforts should first and foremost focus on domestic reduction measures and that the Kyoto Mechanisms only play a complementary role.

*¹ The protocol identifies six types of greenhouse gases that raise temperatures by absorbing thermal radiation from the Earth: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).

*² Following the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan will replace the Guideline for Measures to Prevent Global Warming. The plan will present the overall picture of measures and policies required to achieve the Kyoto Protocol target. The Climate Change Policy Law, which was amended after the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on February 16, 2005, requires the government to formulate this plan.

to convene the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, in January 2005, stressing that the international community including the UN should strengthen efforts toward disaster reduction. The proposal received unanimous support.

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held from January 18 to 22, 2005, exactly 10 years after

the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Following the earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and tsunami in the Indian Ocean that occurred on December 26, 2004, the meeting attracted enormous attention both domestically and internationally and was attended by more than 4,000 participants from 168 countries. The plenary session, which was chaired by Minister of State for Disaster Man-

agement Murata Yoshitaka, included an examination of the disaster-reduction activities that have been carried out by the UN and the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015, a disaster-reduction guideline for the next decade. In addition, there were intensive discussions on the installation of tsunami early warning systems. The meeting left a strong impression of Japan's international leadership in the field of disaster reduction.

(f) Environmental Assistance in Iraq

Japan extends cooperation in the environmental field not only bilaterally but also through international or-

ganizations. In 2004, Japan provided training for environmental experts in Iraq through the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as one of its support measures for the reconstruction of Iraq. Japan also assisted the preservation and management of wetland in southern Iraq through the UNEP's International Environmental Technology Center (IETC),¹¹ whose offices are located in Osaka and Shiga Prefectures. These initiatives by Japan have earned much praise as concrete examples of the implementation of assistance for the reconstruction of Iraq.

4 Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drugs

(a) Transnational Organized Crime

Transnational organized crime has become a major problem today as a result of deepened globalization, advances in information and communications technology (ICT), and the greater movement of people. In order to respond appropriately to such crimes, international partnership and cooperation are becoming increasingly important, and vigorous actions are being taken through such international frameworks as the United Nations (UN), the Group of Eight (G8), and the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF).

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing protocols are designed to create an international legal framework to promote cooperation in preventing and combating organized crime. The Japanese Diet approved the conclusion of this convention in May 2003, and as of January 2005 domestic legislation is being put forward for its conclusion.

Regarding human trafficking, the Japanese government, through coordination among relevant ministries

and agencies, has eagerly taken a number of measures toward the prevention and eradication of human trafficking and protection of the victims of trafficking based on the Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, a comprehensive policy that it formulated in December 2004.¹² Prior to the formulation of this action plan, an inter-ministerial delegation visited Thailand and the Philippines in September to discuss effective cooperation with these governments, relevant organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Hence, Japan is steadily developing close cooperation with relevant countries.

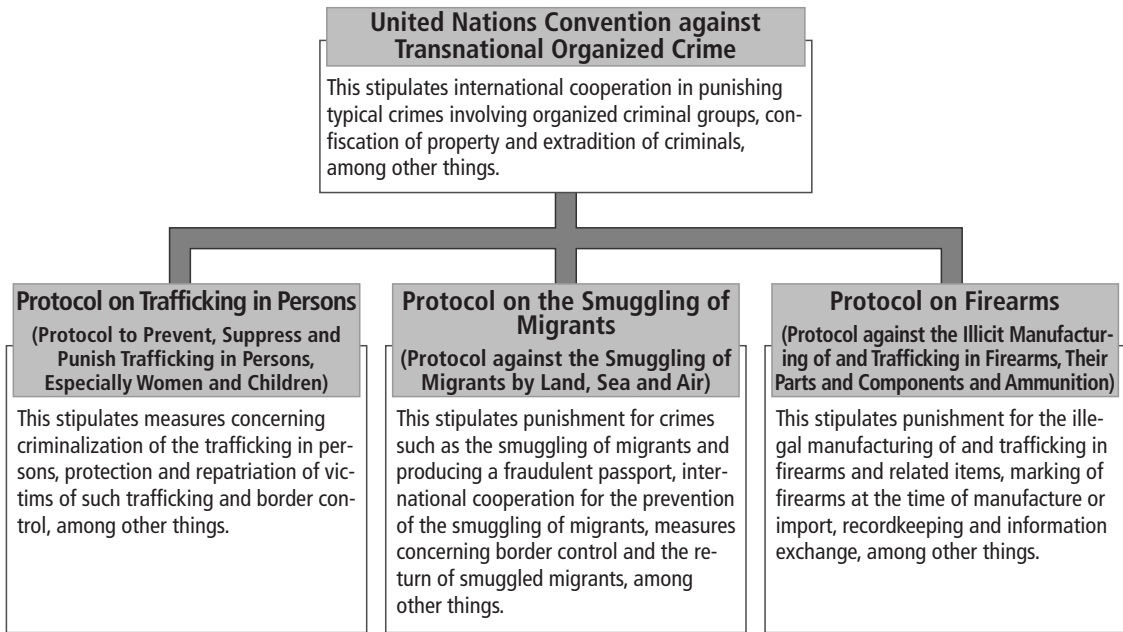
In the G8 framework, the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime, commonly known as the Lyon Group,¹³ has been discussing and coordinating policies and measures and enhancing international cooperation among G8 countries to counter transnational organized crime. In 2004 the group discussed such issues as countermeasures against corruption and cyber crime, to which Japan has made positive contributions, and the results of the discussions were put together in a

11. The UNEP engages in international cooperation activities in the environmental field, such as protection of the ozone layer and disposal of harmful waste. Its headquarters are located in Nairobi, Kenya. The IETC, an internal organization of the UNEP, carries out such activities as organizing training courses and seminars, offering consultation services on environmental problems, and disseminating to developing regions the experience and knowledge of Japanese local governments, which have outstanding records in the environmental field. Its offices are located in Osaka City, and Kusatsu City in Shiga Prefecture.

12. The Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons was formulated on December 7, 2004, by the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee (Task Force) on human trafficking, which was set up in the Prime Minister's Office in April 2004. It consists of a comprehensive range of measures centered on the prevention of human trafficking, including the strengthening of immigration control; the punishment of the perpetrators of human trafficking through a revision of the Penal Code and strengthened enforcement; and victim protection, such as protection in shelters.

13. The decision to establish the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime was made at the Group of Seven (G7) Halifax Summit in 1995. The name "Lyon Group" comes from the fact that the group submitted its first report at the 1996 summit held in Lyon, France. On the dark side of the advance of globalization, transnational organized crime (that is, crime conducted across national borders in an organized manner, such as smuggling of firearms, trafficking in persons, and high-tech crime) is on the rise. The Lyon Group has been actively engaged in discussions to resolve technical and legal problems in order to tackle these issues. Also, following the terrorist attacks in the United States (US) on September 11, 2001, joint meetings were held between the Lyon Group and the Roma Group (G8 Senior Experts Group on Counter-Terrorism) in order to apply the knowledge and experiences of the Lyon Group to counter-terrorism measures.

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



communiqué of the Meeting of G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in May 2004.

Meanwhile, in view of the growing seriousness of cyber crime as a result of the rapid advance and diffusion of ICT coupled with the increasing need for international cooperation to cope with the problem, the Council of Europe started drafting the Convention on Cybercrime in 1997, and the convention was finally adopted in 2001. As an observer at the Council of Europe, Japan participated in the drafting process and signed it in November 2001. Following approval of the convention by the Diet in April 2004, as of January 2005 domestic legislation is being put forward toward its conclusion.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body, centered on the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), aimed at promoting international standards and cooperation to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The FATF issues the Forty Recommendations (and the Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing) as international standards concerning money laundering countermeasures and monitors their implementation. At

a plenary meeting in October 2004, the FATF adopted the Ninth Recommendation on cash couriers and also decided to lift the additional countermeasures against non-cooperative countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Myanmar and Nauru. Japan has been actively involved in the discussions at plenary meetings and has been a chair of a review group to study efforts of the non-cooperative countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region. In this way, Japan has been making positive contributions as a core member of the FATF.

(b) Illicit Drugs

At the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2004, Japan described its successes in postwar countermeasure efforts against amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and stressed the importance of further ATS countermeasures in East Asia.

In addition, in order to deepen understanding of drug-related assistance policy and to promote policy coordination in Southeast Asia and China, Japan served as the chair of the region's Mini-Dublin Groups¹⁴ and held positive discussions on assistance in the region.

14. The Dublin Group was launched in June 1990 in Dublin by the major developed countries with the aim of deepening mutual understanding and coordinating drug-related assistance policies. The participants are Japan, the US, Canada, Australia, Norway, 25 countries of the EU, and the UNODC. The Dublin Group holds plenary sessions twice a year in Brussels to exchange information and conduct consultations for the coordination of drug-related assistance policies. In alternate years, together with Australia, Japan serves as the regional chair of the Southeast Asian group, which discusses forms of assistance in Southeast Asia and China and holds meetings of the Mini-Dublin Groups. The Mini-Dublin Groups are ad hoc meetings held in about 70 drug-producing countries to have consultations with the same purpose as the Dublin Group among the embassies of member countries located in drug-producing countries.

Furthermore, Japan has continued to support counter-narcotics projects by the UN and contributed approximately US\$3.04 million to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in fiscal 2004. The UNODC spent part of this contribution on a project for the

development of cross-border law enforcement cooperation in Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Viet Nam, China, and Cambodia (about US\$350,000)¹⁵ and a project to train experts for the analysis of confiscated stimulants in Southeast Asia (about US\$340,000).¹⁶

5 Human Rights

(a) Overview

Conflicts and incidents derived from racial, religious, and ethnic differences often arise throughout the world, and as a result of them, many people, especially ordinary citizens, have become victims. Furthermore, cases of serious violations of human rights that affect 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 that should not be regarded as an interference with internal affairs; and (3) all rights, including civil liberties and social rights, are indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, and it is necessary to protect and promote them. Bearing in mind these three principles, Japan has been making efforts to improve the human rights situation in various countries, including the development and promotion of international human rights norms, through such international fora as the

United Nations (UN) Commission on Human Rights and through bilateral dialogues.

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

At the sixtieth session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, which was held in Geneva from March to April 2004, the political and confrontational tone of the meeting was again striking. While about 100 resolutions and decisions were submitted for adoption, about 40% of them had to be put to a vote. Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Matsumiya Isao delivered a statement at the meeting calling for an early resolution of the problem of the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea. Also, as in 2003, a Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)¹⁷ was adopted, and it was decided to newly appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate and report on the situation in North Korea.¹⁸ As a co-sponsor of the resolution, Japan actively participated in the discussions and contributed to the drafting of the resolution. Japan's efforts in that regard impressed the members of the commission by squarely taking up the problem of the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea. In addition, bearing in mind its basic principles, Japan as before submitted a Resolution on the Situation

15. The project involves training in investigation methods for law-enforcement personnel in order to strengthen control over illicit drug transactions along the borders of Southeast Asian countries, such as Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Cambodia, and China. There are seminars for national personnel and computer simulations through the distribution of CDs and DVDs to related countries.

16. The project is aimed at improving scientific investigation capacity in the appraisal of confiscated drugs and profiling of impurities and promoting the use of standardized analysis data in East Asia, where the problem of ATS has become increasingly serious in recent years. Specifically, the project involves the standardization of means of analysis, which at present are different from country to country, and the transfer to East Asian countries of analysis technology developed under the Signature Analysis Technology Project.

17. The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed deep concern about the widespread and grave violations of human rights in North Korea; called on North Korea to ratify and implement human rights instruments, cooperate and develop dialogue with the UN system, and resolve, clearly and transparently and urgently, all the unresolved questions relating to the abduction of foreigners; and requested the UN Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate and make recommendations on the situation of human rights in North Korea.

18. A Special Rapporteur is a person who has internationally recognized standing and expertise in human rights and is appointed and given a mandate by the UN Commission on Human Rights. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea is given the task of investigating the situation of human rights in that country by establishing direct contact with the government and people of North Korea and obtaining information from other governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other sources; he is also required to report the findings and make recommendations to the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly. At present the Special Rapporteur is Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn of Thailand.

of Human Rights in Cambodia,¹⁹ which obtained many other co-sponsors and was adopted without a vote. Furthermore, Japan made positive efforts in the discussions on other resolutions so that they had a practical and balanced content.

Differences in opinions and values in the fields of human rights and social affairs were also conspicuous at the meeting of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, which was held in New York from October to November, and the difficulty of coordinating the views of countries on resolutions remained unchanged. For example, nearly one-third of the resolutions had to be put to a vote. In these circumstances, Japan made a constructive contribution by mediating between regions and countries with conflicting opinions, and at the same time it actively voiced its own position. In particular, in a speech by the permanent representative of Japan to the United Nations, Japan welcomed the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea and called for the resolution of human rights violations in that country, including the problem of the abduction of Japanese citizens.

(c) Bilateral Dialogue on Human Rights

Fostering mutual understanding through bilateral dialogue is also important in advancing the protection and promotion of human rights. From this perspective, Japan held human rights dialogues with Saudi Arabia and Iran in June and exchanged opinions on the efforts of these two countries to improve the human rights situation. In particular, it was decided to hold training in Japan for legal personnel from Iran as concrete cooperation to improve the situation. Also, in October, Japan and Myanmar held a human rights seminar on the theme of "Treatment of Prisoners," at which Japan introduced conditions in Japanese prisons and international standards relating to prison treatment to a large number of prison staff in Myanmar.

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

Together with the activities of intergovernmental human rights fora, the examination of state parties' imple-

mentation of the treaties by each of the committees established based on the six major human rights treaties²⁰ plays an important role as a mechanism to protect and promote human rights in the international community. On January 28, 2004, an examination took place regarding the second report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child submitted by the government of Japan in November 2001.

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Technical and other cooperation offered by the UN in the area of human rights plays a significant role as lateral support for the efforts of various countries to improve the situation of human rights. In July 2004 Louise Arbour, judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, was appointed as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, a post that had been vacant since the passing of Sergio Vieira de Mello in a terrorist bombing attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003. Also, the OHCHR serves as the secretariat for the committees established on the basis of the above-mentioned human rights treaties. Japan has contributed about ¥18.3 million to various funds operated by the OHCHR, including the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. In November, UNHCHR Arbour visited Japan and held discussions with Minister for Foreign Affairs Machimura Nobutaka and others on the expansion of Japan's cooperation with the OHCHR.

(f) Children and Women

Japan has stepped up its efforts concerning the human rights of children in recent years. Since 2004 marked the 10th anniversary of Japan's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994, Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), held a commemorative symposium in Tokyo in March.²¹ Also, Japan concluded the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict²² in August 2004 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children,

19. In the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in Cambodia, the UN Commission on Human Rights welcomed the agreement on the establishment of a special court for the Khmer Rouge and the peaceful implementation of a general election, as well as calling for further improvements. It also requested the international community to extend financial and technical cooperation for the establishment of the special court and improvement of the human rights situation.

20. The six major human rights treaties are: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Child Prostitution and Child Pornography²³ in January 2005.

Together with the protection and promotion of women's rights, enhancing women's status in society remains an important issue. Japan believes that it is important to ensure the promotion of gender equality, the active participation of women, and the fair distribution of benefits between men and women in all stages of the development process, from policy planning to implementation. Japan provides positive assistance in this field both bilaterally and through contributions to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). In addition, violence against women and children in such forms as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, violence in conflicts, and traditional harmful practices like female genital mutilation continues to be a serious human rights problem, and urgent efforts are needed to eliminate violence.

In September, a high-level meeting²⁴ to discuss the state of implementation in the Asia-Pacific region of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was held at the headquarters of the UN Economic and Social Com-

mission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)²⁵ in Thailand. The Japanese delegation played a leading role in drafting and adopting the report of this meeting.

(g) Persons with Disabilities

Japan recognizes that the protection and promotion of the human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities are one of the most important issues in human rights diplomacy and has been making positive efforts so that talks on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities can be adopted as early as possible, with satisfactory substance. Maintaining close cooperation with NGOs of persons with disabilities, Japan has actively taken part in discussions in the UN. In January 2004 a Japanese representative joined the drafting working group, and Japan also participated in the third (May–June) and fourth (August–September) sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Convention, where intergovernmental negotiations were conducted on the basis of this draft.

21. The commemorative symposium, cosponsored with UNICEF, was held at UN University in March 2004 to mark the 10th anniversary of Japan's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. With the participation of Japanese and international representatives from a wide range of backgrounds, the symposium was aimed at broadly increasing understanding of the rights of children among the public. It also followed up on the examination of the Japanese government's second report on the convention, which was conducted by the convention committee in Geneva in January 2004. Panelists included a member of the Diet, journalists, scholars, novelists, and Japanese NGO representatives, and Kusanagi Tsuyoshi, a member of the pop music group SMAP, attended as a special guest. While such problems as school absenteeism, bullying, child abuse, and juvenile crime are becoming serious social issues in Japan, the discussion of the various child-related issues in the spirit of the convention helped the participants increase their awareness of children's rights and share the need for coming together in their efforts to find solutions to the problems.

22. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict was adopted at the 54th UN General Assembly in 2000. In armed conflicts that break out in many regions around the world, children are forced to participate in combat or are the victims of violence and sexual exploitation. The optional protocol seeks to improve this situation and to promote and protect the rights of the child. The protocol stipulates that parties to the convention must ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities; ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 18 years are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces; and raise the minimum age for the voluntary recruitment of persons into their national armed forces from the level of under 15 years as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (enforced in 1990).

23. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography was adopted at the 54th UN General Assembly in 2000. It seeks to improve the situation in which many children around the world are forced to engage in the sex industry or are the victims of the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography and to promote and protect the rights of the child. The protocol stipulates the criminalization of certain acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, the establishment of jurisdiction, the extradition of offenders, and the promotion of international cooperation.

24. The high-level meeting was held at the ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok on September 7–10 to consider a contribution from the Asia-Pacific region to the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (at the UN Headquarters in New York, February and March 2005) to mark the 10th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women (in Beijing, 1995). Discussions were conducted on such issues as the state of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcome Document of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women in 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century," after which the meeting adopted the Bangkok Communiqué and other documents.

25. The UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) was founded in 1947 as a regional body under the UN Economic and Social Council; it was renamed the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in 1974. It carries out regional cooperation projects in a wide range of fields as an agency that promotes economic and social development.

Conventions Related to Human Rights Created within the Framework of the UN

(As of March 4, 2005)

	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	151	○(June 21, 1979)
2	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	December 16, 1966	March 23, 1976	154	○(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	54	
5	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	December 21, 1965	January 4, 1969	170	○(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	179	○(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	71	
10	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	December 9, 1948	January 12, 1951	136	
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* ¹				
	(1) Slavery Convention of 1926	September 25, 1926	March 9, 1927	—* ²	
	Protocol amending the Slavery Convention of 1926	December 7, 1953	December 7, 1953	59	
	(2) Amended Slavery Convention of 1926	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	78	○(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	142	○(January 1, 1982)
17	Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	August 30, 1961	December 13, 1975	29	
18	Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	September 28, 1954	June 6, 1960	57	
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	118	○(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	139	○(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	6 (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	94	○(August 2, 2004)
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	93	○(January 24, 2005)
27	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	December 18, 1990	July 1, 2003	27	

*1 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.

*2 The number of signatory countries is not specified on the UN website.

6 Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance is becoming increasingly necessary and important in various parts of the world due to conflicts against the background of ethnic and religious strife and natural disasters, such as droughts and flood. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), 300 million children around the world are suffering from chronic hunger. The number of refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and others who require the protection and support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reaches approximately 21.29 million persons (2004 statistics).²⁶ The existence of this vulnerable segment of the population all over the world is a humanitarian issue and also a problem that could impact on the peace and stability of not only the relevant regions but also the international community as a whole.



A Sudanese refugee camp in Chad

From the perspective of human security, Japan has placed humanitarian assistance as one of the important pillars of its international contributions and has provided active support to the operations of international humanitarian organizations such as the UNHCR, the WFP, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In addition, Japan has made active personnel contributions. For example, Japanese staff members are active in such international humanitarian organizations as the UNHCR and the WFP, sometimes working under severe conditions in countries including Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In light of the signs in recent years that many conflicts in the African region are nearing resolution, Japan has been making positive efforts toward resolving the refugee issue as part of its goal of consolidation of peace²⁷ in Africa. For example, Japan recognized early on that the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of western Sudan was very serious, and as early as the end of May 2004, following the United States (US), Japan dispatched a joint survey mission consisting of government staff, representatives from the UNHCR office in Japan, and Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the neighboring country of Chad, into which there had been a massive flow of refugees from Sudan. Furthermore, in September Ambassador Sato Keitaro, who is in charge of conflict and refugee-related issues in Africa, accompanied a UNHCR delegation to the region headed by then UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers. Then, considering the results of these survey missions and other factors, Japan contributed US\$21 million, mainly for food and medical assistance, and also transported 700 tents from Japan in order to improve the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and the Darfur region (regarding the situation in Sudan see P.114).

26. This figure breaks down to 17.10 million covered by the UNHCR and 4.19 million covered by the UNRWA.

27. Assistance for the rehabilitation of communities damaged by conflict and for domestic reconciliation, and assistance for the efforts by African countries themselves to resolve conflicts (the peace process).

Participating in the Darfur Donor Mission*

In September 2004 I visited Sudan (the Darfur region) and Chad in Africa. Large-scale violations of human rights and the exodus of refugees as a result of the conflict in this region for many years had been reported and had attracted international attention. For example, the issue was discussed at the Group of Eight (G8) Sea Island Summit.

The officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan visit various places around the world, including dangerous regions. In performing the important duties that we are given on such visits, we also sometimes come across new "encounters." This was especially true during my recent visit to Africa.

The purpose of the visit was to assist Ambassador Sato Keitaro, who is in charge of conflict and refugee-related issues in Africa and was serving as the Japanese representative on a donor mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The international community has supported refugees. On the other hand, through our interviews with related persons, visits to camps, and so on, we noticed the fact that a considerable gap in living standards is emerging because assistance from the international community is directed toward refugees

but not toward the local residents in the districts into which the refugees had flowed. We also saw tension rising between the refugees and local residents as disputes flared up concerning limited resources, such as water and firewood. We observed that Japanese assistance (US\$21 million) should be used in such a way that it reaches the region as a whole, and subsequently this became Japan's assistance policy.

Meanwhile, among the many new encounters that I experienced on the donor mission, the most impressive one was the welcome that we received from children with their innocent smiling faces, singing, and dancing. I saw that these children of Sudanese refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), who from their birth had been constantly in fear of attacks by armed groups in very poor conditions of public security and had been brought up in an environment with no clean drinking water and inadequate food supplies, had the same smiling faces as Japanese children. After my return to Japan, one day on the train I watched an elementary school child moaning at her mother because she did not like the color of a newly purchased umbrella. I couldn't help but wonder about the differences in the feelings of these children.

Through the Darfur mission, I witnessed the reality that the socially weak in the world, the victims of conflicts, and other people still require much more assistance from the international community, and I strongly felt the need for the international community to unite in solving the issues that create these conditions. I believe that Japan has an extremely important role to play in this regard. And I realized even more strongly than before that, as a Japanese citizen and an officer of the Foreign Ministry, I want to do my best. (Sasahara Naoki, official, Humanitarian Assistance Division, Global Issues Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

(Photo)

* The donor mission of the Office of the UNHCR visited camps for refugees and IDPs in the eastern part of Chad and the Darfur region of Sudan from September 23 to 28, 2004. They also held discussions with government dignitaries of the two countries and UN and NGO representatives. In addition to Japan, the United States, Germany, the European Union, and the African Union participated in the mission.