

D Official Development Assistance (ODA)

(a) Overview

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), which still represents a large part of its international contribution, is highly appreciated by the international community. This assistance is provided despite Japan's own severe economic and financial situation of recent years, with a view to assisting countries suffering damage from natural disasters and to alleviating poverty. These efforts stem from the successful achievements or outcome of ODA, accumulated over more than a half century. Through the ODA Charter, which was revised in 2003, Japan will continue to contribute to the attainment of the peace and development of the international community, thereby contributing to the security and prosperity of Japan. ODA will remain one of the important diplomatic instruments for Japan in the future. In line with its ongoing diplomatic objectives Japan will continue to enhance the strategic implementation of ODA in a more efficient and effective manner.

The following is a review of Japan's ODA spanning 50 years:

Progress to date: 50 years of Japan's ODA

In 2004, Japan's ODA marked its 50th anniversary.¹ Japan, based on its belief in self-help efforts, has proceeded with the development of infrastructure and human resources, which are fundamental to the nation building of developing countries, and contributed to the improvement of the lives of the people of developing countries through assistance in the areas of promotion of economic development, income generation, poverty reduction, health care, and education. While drawing on its own experience of economic development, it ex-

panded its provision of assistance in line with its increasing economic power. And Japan was ranked as the world's top ODA provider for the 10 years from 1991 to 2000, on a net disbursement basis. Though Japan is currently reducing its total volume of assistance, it is still ranked second after the United States (US). Japan has provided assistance to a total of 185 countries and regions, and the total amount of assistance disbursed up to 2003 came to approximately US\$221 billion.

(i) System Development Period (1954–1976)

In October 1954, Japan joined the Colombo Plan² and started to provide ODA. At the time, treaties were being concluded on reparations with Asian countries. Economic cooperation provided in tandem with reparations was also specified as a way of atoning for the war. During this period, the development of aid implementation systems gradually progressed, such as the Overseas Technology Cooperation Agency (OJCA), the predecessor of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Export Bank, and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), now the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

(ii) System Expansion Period (1977–1991)

In 1976, Japan's reparations ended upon finally completing payment to the Philippines, and then Japan's ODA entered a new era. Against the backdrop of expectations from the international community and debate within Japan over expanding and promoting ODA, Japan announced the First Medium-Term Target of ODA, which aimed at doubling ODA in three years. Afterward, Japanese assistance expanded not only in its volume but also in its range, starting such assistance as disaster emergency assistance, cultural grant aid, and grant aid for increase of food production.

1. In order to promote the understanding and participation in international cooperation among a greater number of Japanese citizens, the 50 Years of International Cooperation Commemorative Period was set for three months before and after October 6, 2004, the International Cooperation Day. During this period, various events were held throughout Japan, including the International Cooperation Festival, ODA Town Meetings, and the 50th Anniversary of Japan's International Cooperation Symposium. The government provided information on the 50th Anniversary of Japan's international cooperation for a wide range of media, including TV commercials and newspaper columns on the topic. Local authorities and private organizations, which wanted to show the success of their own efforts and to announce their future efforts, also participated in the events. More than 260 entities were registered to take part in the commemorative events. In addition, diplomatic missions abroad collaborated with the governments of other countries, international organizations and locally situated ODA task forces to help promote the awareness and understanding of local populations regarding Japanese efforts for international cooperation, through such projects as holding workshops and issuing commemorative postage stamps.

2. The Colombo Plan is an international organization established in 1950 for development assistance to the Asia-Pacific region. Its office is located in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

50 Years of Japan's ODA

1954 Oct	Japan participates in the Colombo Plan. Technical cooperation starts.
Nov	Reparations begin (Burma: Myanmar at present).
1956 Dec	Japan is granted membership to the UN.
1958 Feb	Yen loans begin (India).
1960 Sep	International Development Association (IDA, "Second World Bank") is founded.
Dec	Japan joins the IDA.
1961 Mar	Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) is founded.
Oct	Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is established (Japan is a founding member country).
1962 Jun	Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OCTA) is founded.
1964 Mar	1st United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is held.
Apr	Japan joins the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
1965 Apr	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program is launched.
1966 Aug	Asian Development Bank (ADB) is founded.
1969	General grant aid starts.
1972 Oct	The Japan Foundation is established.
1974 Aug	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is founded (OTCA and Japan Emigration Service are integrated).
1976 Jul	Japan completes reparations to Philippines.
1978 Jul	First Medium-Term Target of ODA is announced.
1981 Jan	Second Medium-Term Target of ODA is announced.
1982 Sep	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) issues the first version of the "Annual Evaluation Report on Japan's Economic Co-operation."
1984 Mar	MOFA issues the first edition of "Japan's Official Development Assistance (the ODA White Paper)."
1985 Sep	Third Medium-Term Target of ODA is announced.
1987 Sep	Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team is founded.
Oct	International Cooperation Day (October 6) is established.
1988 Jun	Fourth Medium-Term Target of ODA is announced.
1989 Apr	Grant Aid for Grassroots Projects starts (Grant Assistance-Grassroots/Human Security Projects at present).
Apr	NGO Projects Subsidies start.
Nov	OECF Environmental Guideline is announced.
Dec	Japan becomes the top ODA donor among DAC countries for the first time (continues until 2000 except 1990).
1991 Apr	The four key principles for implementing ODA are formulated.
1992 Jun	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) is held.
Jun	Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter (the ODA Charter) is approved by the cabinet.
1993 Jun	Fifth Medium-Term Target of ODA is announced.
Oct	Japan co-hosts the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).
1995 Jun	Non-Governmental Organization Assistance Division is established within MOFA.
Aug	Grant aid to China is suspended in principle because of China's nuclear testing (until March 1997).
Sep	4th World Conference on Women is held (Japan's Initiative on WID is announced).
1996 May	DAC Development Partnership Strategy is adopted at the DAC High-Level Meeting.
1997 Jun	Special Session of the UN General Assembly to Review and Appraise the Implementation of Agenda 21 is held (Initiative for Sustainable Development Toward the 21st Century [ISD] is announced).
Dec	3rd Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) is held (The Kyoto Initiative is announced).
1998 Jan	Council on ODA Reform presents its final report.
Feb	Emergency economic stabilization measures for Southeast Asia are announced.
May	Japan imposes economic sanctions on India and Pakistan's nuclear testing (suspension of new grant aid and yen loans in principle until October 2001).
Jun	Foreign Economic Cooperation Council presents its report entitled "On Promotional Measures for Future Economic Cooperation."
Oct	2nd Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II) is held (Japan's comprehensive measures for assistance to Africa are announced).
1999 Jun	The Cologne Debt Initiative (Enhanced HIPC Initiative) is agreed.
Aug	Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance is announced.
Oct	Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) is established (the Export-Import Bank of Japan and OECF are integrated).
2000 Jul	Kyushu-Okinawa Summit is held (Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative and other initiatives are announced).
2001 Aug	ODA Town Meetings start.
2002 Mar	Second Consultative Committee on ODA Reform issues its final report.
Jul	Fifteen Specific Measures for ODA Reform of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is announced.

2002	Aug	Initiative for Development in East Asia (IDEA) Ministerial Meeting is held.
	Aug	World Summit on Sustainable Development is held (Koizumi Initiative: Concrete Actions of Japanese Government to Be Taken for Sustainable Development—Toward Global Sharing, Environmental Conservation Initiative for Sustainable Development [Eco ISD], and other initiatives are announced).
2003	Aug	Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter is revised.
	Sep	3rd Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) is held (Japan's Initiative for Assistance to Africa is announced).
	Oct	JICA becomes an independent administrative institution.
	Dec	Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit is held (Japan's Co-operation to ASEAN [Japan's New Initiatives]).

(iii) Substantial Policy Formulation Period (1992–2002)

In an international situation marked by the end of the Cold War, the ODA Charter was drawn up in 1992, containing comprehensive, mid- and long-term assistance policies. The ODA Charter cites: (1) humanitarian considerations, (2) recognition of interdependence, (3) environmental conservation, and (4) support for the self-help efforts of developing countries toward their take-off.

Following the ODA Charter, Japan strengthened assistance policies for individual countries and regions. At the same time, it reinforced its efforts concerning a number of issues on a global scale, through announcing and implementing initiatives in various areas. These moves backed Japan's stronger voice in the debate over international assistance, and they played a major role in the establishment of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)'s New Development Strategy,³ which includes development objectives for the whole international community. Later, the above mentioned strategy has been succeeded by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),⁴ development goals for the whole international community. In addition, the ODA Medium-Term Policy⁵ was formulated in 1999. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has been proceeding steadily with ODA reforms on the pillars of ensuring transparency, enhancing efficiency, and public participation.

(iv) Meeting the Challenges of the New Era (2003 to present)

Against the changes in the domestic and international situation surrounding ODA, the government of Japan revised the ODA Charter in August 2003 for the first time in 11 years, with the aim of enhancing the strategic

value and efficiency of ODA. And the revision also had the aim of encouraging wide public participation and deepening the understanding of Japan's ODA policies both within Japan and abroad. In the revised Charter, the objective of Japan's ODA is to "contribute to the peace and development of the international community, and thereby to help ensure Japan's own security and prosperity." The revised Charter spells out in a comprehensive way the basic policies, priority issues, and priority regions of Japan's ODA.

Japan's Changing ODA

The revised ODA Charter demonstrates the philosophy and principles of Japan's ODA. In the meantime it is necessary to translate the spirit set forth in the revised ODA Charter into concrete policies such as the Medium-Term Policy, Country Assistance Programs, and Sector-Specific Initiatives, and individual assistance projects.

The plans for assistance to individual countries were prepared to reflect the opinions of a diverse group of people involved in assistance. Under the active participation of Country-based ODA Task Forces, studies were conducted mainly by Country-based ODA Task Forces composed of experts in individual countries on policies regarding assistance plans for these countries. Discussions took place between the government agencies concerned, and there were exchanges of opinions among non-governmental organizations (NGOs), business circles and aid communities. Opinions were also collected from the government, private, and NGO sectors in aid recipient countries.

From 2000 to February 2005, Country Assistance Programs were established for 19 countries. Recently, a revised assistance plan for Viet Nam was officially approved, while new plans were officially approved for Sri

3. DAC's New Development Strategy: This is a development guideline aimed at the 21st century, adopted at the DAC high level meeting in 1996. It sets achievable goals in three areas: economic welfare, social development and environmental sustainability, and regeneration.

4. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): These are international development goals based on the Millennium Declaration adopted at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit. These set out clear quantitative and achievement standards concerning the problems of poverty alleviation, basic education, gender, infant mortality rates, the environment, and so on.

5. The Medium-Term Policy on ODA is a policy paper setting out the position of the ODA Charter, which clarifies the philosophy and principles of Japan's ODA. The policy is based on the ODA Charter, and makes the Charter's philosophy and principles more concrete, while serving as a guide to the Country Assistance Programs and Issue-Specific Initiatives.

Outline of the ODA Charter

I. Philosophy: Objectives, Policies and Priorities

1. Objectives
Contribute to the peace and development of the international community, and thereby to help ensure Japan's own security and prosperity
2. Basic policies
 - (1) Supporting self-help efforts of developing countries
 - (2) Perspective of "human security"
 - (3) Assurance of fairness (environmental and social impact, perspective of gender equality, etc.)
 - (4) Utilization of Japan's experience and expertise
 - (5) Partnership and collaboration with the international community
3. Priority issues
 - (1) Poverty reduction
 - (2) Sustainable growth
 - (3) Addressing global issues
 - (4) Peace building
4. Priority regions
Asia, which can have a major impact on Japan's stability and prosperity, is a priority region for Japan. However, Japan will strategically prioritize, fully taking into account the diversity of the Asian countries' socio-economic conditions and changes in their respective assistance needs. Japan will prioritize its assistance for other regions on the basis of the charter, giving consideration to the needs for assistance and the state of development.

II. Principle of ODA Implementation

- Comprehensively take into account developing countries' need for assistance, socio-economic conditions and Japan's bilateral relations with the recipient country in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter as well as the following points:
- (1) Pursue in tandem environmental conservation and development
 - (2) Avoid any use of ODA for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts
 - (3) Pay adequate attention to trends in military expenditures and weapons of mass destruction (WMD)
 - (4) Pay adequate attention to efforts for democratization and the introduction of a market-oriented economy, and the situation regarding the protection of basic human rights and freedoms

III. Formulation and Implementation of ODA Policy

1. System of formulation and implementation of ODA policy
 - (1) Coherent formulation of ODA policy (establishment of medium-term ODA policies and individual country assistance programs)
 - (2) Collaboration among related government ministries and agencies (Council of Overseas Economic Cooperation-Related Ministers, etc.)
 - (3) Collaboration between government and implementing agencies
 - (4) Strengthening of policy consultation
 - (5) Strengthening of the functions of field missions in the policy-making process and in implementation
 - (6) Collaboration with aid-related entities
2. Increasing public participation
 - (1) Broad participation by Japanese citizens from all walks of life
 - (2) Human resources development and development research
 - (3) Development education
 - (4) Information disclosure and public relations
3. Matters essential to effective implementation
 - (1) Enhancement of evaluation system
 - (2) Ensuring appropriate procedures
 - (3) Prevention of fraud and corruption (enhance auditing, etc.)
 - (4) Ensuring the safety of ODA personnel

IV. Reporting on the Status of Implementation of the ODA Charter

The government will report the status of implementation in the ODA White Paper.

Lanka, Mongolia, Indonesia, and Pakistan at a Ministers Conference for Overseas Cooperation,⁶ through deliberations at the Council of Overseas Economic Cooperation-Related Ministers held in April 2004.⁷ As of December 2004, work was proceeding to establish new assistance plans for India, Laos, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Ethiopia, while revision work was in progress for Bangladesh, Ghana, Thailand, Egypt, and the Philippines.

In addition, a new Medium-Term Policy on ODA was drawn up in February 2005, based on the thorough review of the previous one, five years after its establishment under the original Charter. The New Medium-Term ODA Policy sets forth Japan's positions and actions to implement ODA more strategically. Specifically, the New Medium-Term ODA Policy describes Japan's positions, approaches, and specific actions in the following areas: the "perspective of human security," the four priority issues of "poverty reduction," "sustainable growth," "addressing global issues," and "peace building," and "measures to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of assistance."

A peaceful and stable international environment is indispensable for Japan, which has benefited from trade and investment with other countries and relies on countries overseas for natural resources and food. Playing a guiding role in building a peaceful and stable world order and tackling developmental and global issues through the means of ODA contributes to harmonious and mutually beneficial development of the international community, engenders the deep trust of the international community, and, above all, is linked to Japan's security and prosperity. For these reasons, Japan has been proceeding vigorously with various efforts for more effective implementation of ODA and promoting the strengthening of efforts aimed at future ODA improvements.

(b) ODA by Region

Asia

Japan maintains a close relationship with Asia in all aspects, including politics, economy, and culture, and the

assistance to Asia has a deep impact on Japan's security and prosperity; this is why Asia is the top recipient of Japan's ODA. Japan's ODA toward Asia on a bilateral basis in 2003 totaled approximately US\$3.22 billion, accounting for 53.6% of total bilateral ODA.

The bulk of Japan's ODA to East Asia was directed toward economic infrastructure, as well as education and human resources development. These fields, combined with foreign investment, have had a bearing on developing export industries, and progress in a close partnership among assistance, trade, and investment has led to these countries' economic growth.

In Japan's relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ODA has been effectively utilized not only to strengthen economic ties but also to alleviate regional disparities, develop systems to promote private trade, support socio-economic infrastructure, develop human resources, promote the conservation of the environment, form government policies for economic structural reforms, encourage decentralization and governance, and assist in resolving such transnational issues as terrorism and piracy.

The South Asian region has the world's largest population of poor people, a very low coverage of primary education, and poor public health-care facilities, making infectious diseases a serious problem. This makes the region a prime target on par with Africa for achieving the MDGs. Japan has also been addressing the problems of nuclear weapon proliferation and the war on terrorism by supporting actions for the security and development of the region through regional cooperation focused on more economic freedom and other economic issues in each country in the region.

Africa

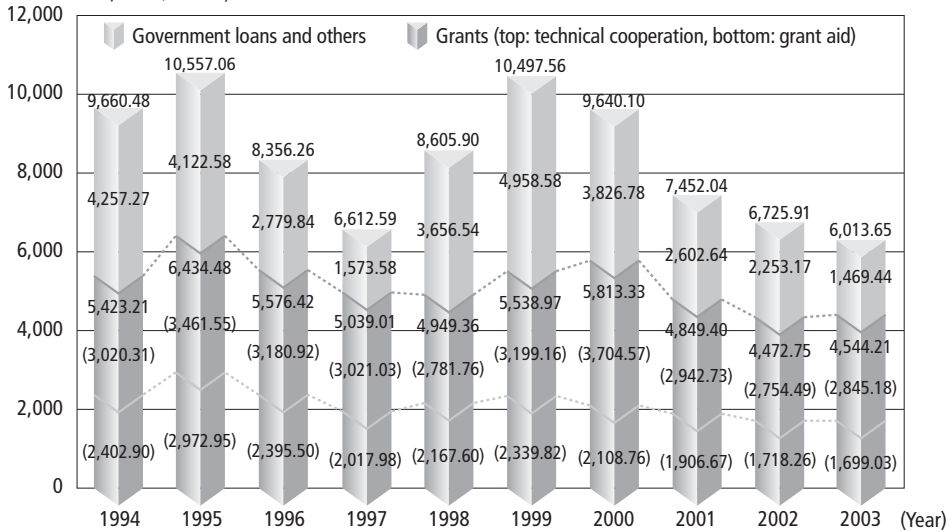
Africa is a region rife with problems, including abject poverty, armed conflicts, starvation, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, and accumulating debt; in recent years the international community has been reawakened to the importance of African development. Japan's ODA toward Africa on a bilateral basis totaled

6. Ministers Conference for Overseas Cooperation: This Council has an objective to secure tight-knit communication among administrative agencies involved in the implementation of economic cooperation and to promote efficient and comprehensive implementation. This is achieved through the exchange of opinions and other means on basic policies of economic cooperation. The members include the prime minister; the chief cabinet secretary; the minister for foreign affairs; the minister of finance; the minister of economy, trade and industry; the minister of internal affairs and communications; the minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries; the minister of the environment; the minister of land, infrastructure and transport; the minister of health, labor and welfare; the minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology; the minister of justice; the director-general of the Defense Agency; the minister of the Financial Service Agency; the minister of state for economic and fiscal policy; the minister of state for disaster management; and the minister of state for information technology.

7. Council of Overseas Economic Cooperation-Related Ministers: In line with proposals in the final report of the Second Consultative Committee on ODA Reform submitted in March 2002 to then Minister for Foreign Affairs Kawaguchi Yoriko, the Board on Comprehensive ODA Strategy was established in June 2002 with the aims of realizing public participation in ODA, enhancing the transparency of ODA, and reinforcing the functions of MOFA to coordinate ODA by, among other things, formulating Country Assistance Programs.

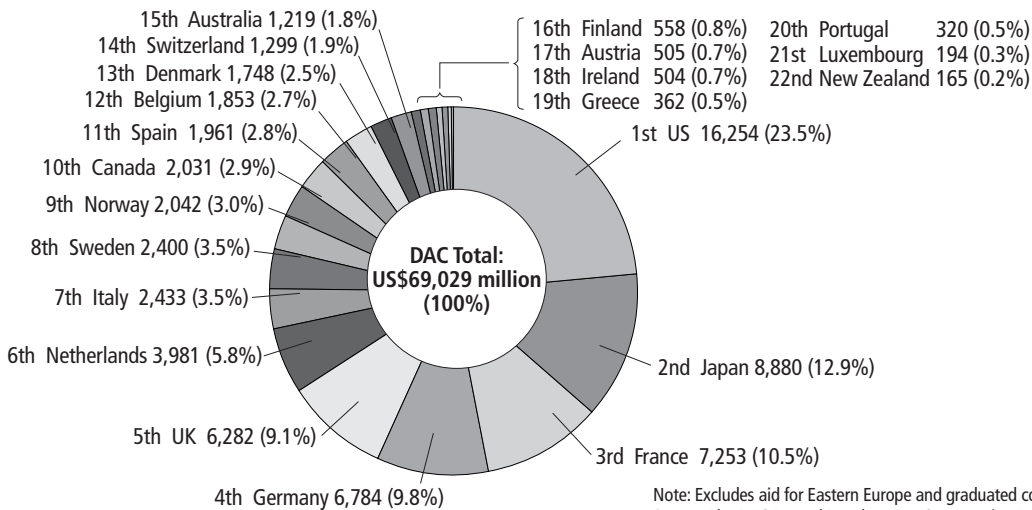
Bilateral ODA Disbursement by Type of Assistance

(Net disbursement basis, in US\$ million)



Note: Includes aid for Eastern Europe and graduated countries.

ODA from DAC Member Countries (Net disbursement basis in 2003 in US\$ million)



Note: Excludes aid for Eastern Europe and graduated countries.
Source: The DAC Journal Development Co-operation Report 2004

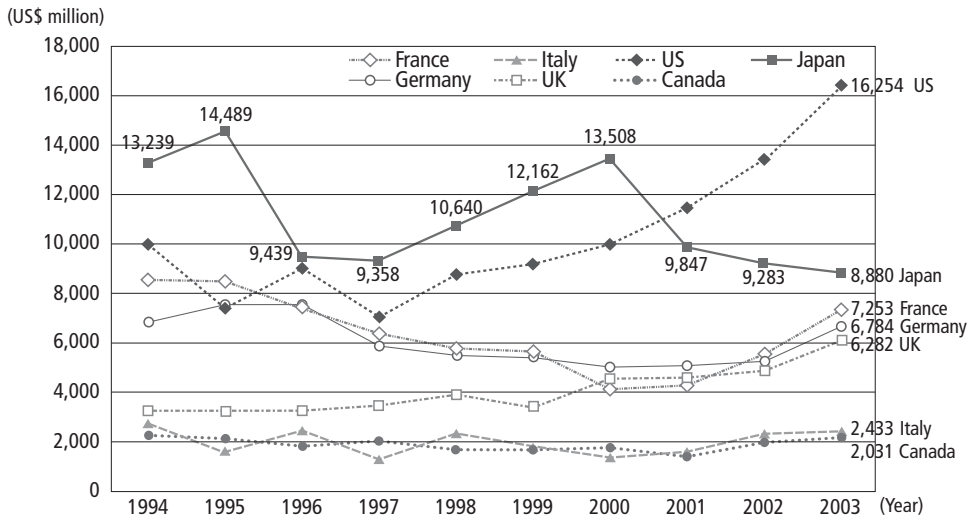
approximately US\$529.98 million in 2003, accounting for 8.8% of total bilateral ODA.

Japan has been providing African countries with diverse cooperation, indispensable for its economic growth, such as assistance for human security, agricultural development, social and economic infrastructure building, and humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for war-torn areas to consolidate peace. In particular, Asia-Africa Cooperation has been highly valued as a unique form of cooperation by Japan that helps Africa to share the experiences of Asian countries that have suc-

cessfully achieved economic growth with Japan's economic cooperation. Various projects, such as the development and diffusion of NERICA (New Rice for Africa) and the promotion of private-sector trade and investment between Asia and Africa are good examples of tangible and distinctive projects of Asia-Africa Cooperation.

In November 2004 the TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference was held in Tokyo, and through this and other activities Japan has been taking the initiative in African development assistance in the international community.

Trends in ODA Disbursements of Major DAC Countries



	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
US	9,927	7,367	9,377	6,878	8,786	9,145	9,955	11,426	13,290	16,254
Japan	13,239	14,489	9,439	9,358	10,640	12,162	13,508	9,847	9,283	8,880
France	8,466	8,443	7,451	6,307	5,742	5,639	4,105	4,198	5,486	7,253
Germany	6,818	7,524	7,601	5,857	5,581	5,515	5,030	4,990	5,324	6,784
UK	3,197	3,202	3,199	3,433	3,864	3,426	4,501	4,579	4,924	6,282
Italy	2,705	1,623	2,416	1,266	2,278	1,806	1,376	1,627	2,332	2,433
Canada	2,250	2,067	1,795	2,045	1,707	1,706	1,744	1,533	2,006	2,031

Note: Excludes aid for Eastern Europe and graduated countries.
Source: *The DAC Journal Development Co-operation Report 2004*

(c) Priority Issues and Sector-specific ODA

Poverty Reduction

Poverty reduction is a key development goal shared by the international community, and in the revised ODA Charter it is in the top four priority issues. Japan has been supporting human and social development in developing countries by giving high priority to providing assistance to such sectors as education, health care and welfare, water and sanitation, and agriculture; these are the basic human needs that form the core of the MDGs.

Sustainable Growth

Sustainable growth is indispensable to the stability and development of poor countries. Poverty reduction through economic growth is an important approach. In order to support sustainable growth of developing countries, Japan gives priority to the development of socio-economic infrastructure that is important for economic activities. It also places priority on the promotion of trade and investment through economic assistance including policy-making, the development of institutions and human resources development and on the facilita-

tion of economic growth of aid-receiving countries through the enhancement of the private sector and technology transfer.

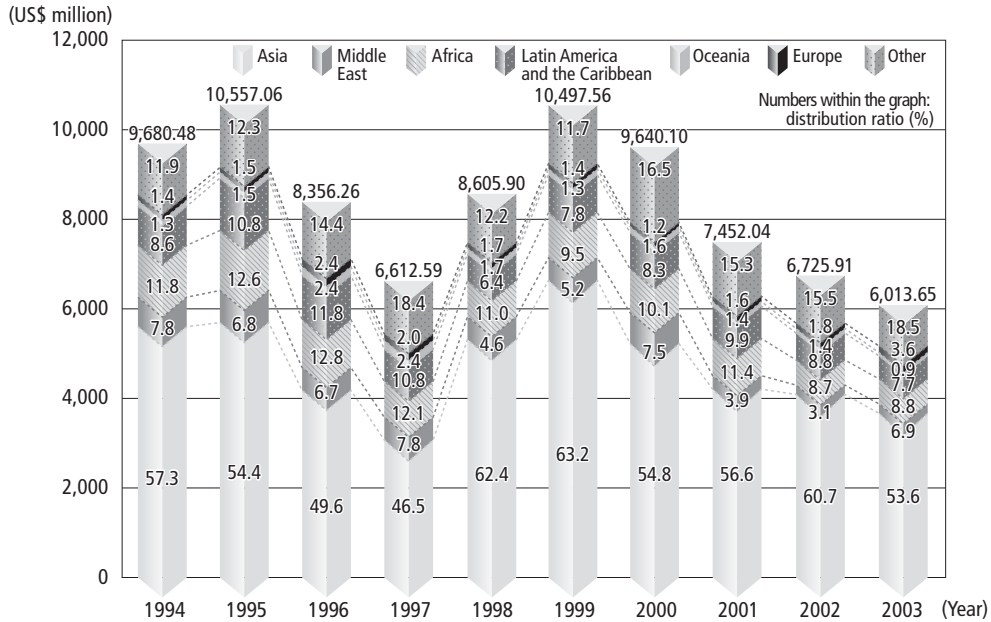
Supporting Self-help Efforts of Developing Countries, Supporting Democratization

Assistance to developing countries that are making efforts to help themselves through good governance is one of the most important principles of Japan's ODA. Developing countries that are actively working for peace, democratization, human rights, and economic and social structural reform are the top priorities for Japanese ODA. Guided by this principle, Japan has been supporting efforts for democratization from every angle. In the area of policy making and institution building, it has implemented technical cooperation such as acceptance of trainees and dispatch of experts.

Addressing Global Issues

Issues that cross national borders are becoming more serious. These days, because of the sophistication and expansion of human economic activities these issues include global environmental issues such as global warming and depletion of ozone layer, population

ODA Trends in Major DAC Countries



Notes: 1. Due to numbers having been rounded off, there are cases in which the totals do not add up.
 2. Includes record of assistance to Eastern Europe and countries no longer dependent on aid.

growth in developing countries, transnational organized crime such as smuggling of weapons and drugs and trafficking of human beings resulting from the advance of globalization, terrorism, and infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Under these circumstances, the international community has become aware of the importance of strengthening measures to deal with global issues that individual countries cannot handle alone. In the ODA Charter, it is stated that further efforts must be made immediately and in a coordinated manner by the international community to deal with these global issues and that Japan will address these issues through ODA. Japan is also actively providing ODA in the field of disaster reduction in the light of the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004.

Peace Building

Having noticed the changes in the causes and forms of conflicts, the international community started to realize that the prevention and solution of conflicts require comprehensive measures including nation building in post-conflict situations as well as political endeavors such as UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO), dispatch

of multinational forces, preventative diplomacy, and dispute settlement. In this context, the importance of development assistance in peace building has increased.

Japan has been giving seamless assistance according to the stages of conflicts in such countries and regions as Cambodia, Kosovo, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and Africa. Such assistance includes emergency humanitarian support during conflicts (emergency aid to the countries involved in conflicts and their neighboring countries, and assistance to refugees and internal displaced persons), encouraging the ending of conflicts (assistance for promoting peace process, poverty reduction, and correction of disparities), and assistance for the consolidation of peace and nation building in post-conflict situations (assistance for the peace process, humanitarian assistance, assuring domestic stability and security, reconstruction and development assistance). Japan will continue its active support for Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries and regions in order to consolidate peace and carry out nation building. Japan will also study and implement measures to promote peace in Sri Lanka, Aceh in Indonesia, and Mindanao in the Philippines through its ODA.

Provision of Emergency Assistance

As of December 31, 2004

Country	Event	Decision Date	Japan Disaster Relief Team	Commodities Contributed	
				Items	Value (Yen)
Indonesia	Earthquake	Feb. 8		Tents, blankets, generators, cord reels	12,970,000
Morocco	Earthquake	Feb. 25	Rescue team (23 people, 7 days)	Tents, blankets, generators, cord reels, polyethylene tanks	15,699,000
Madagascar	Cyclone	Feb. 27		Tents, plastic sheets, generators, cord reels, water purifiers, short-wave radios	13,000,000
Madagascar	Cyclone	Mar. 16		Tents, generators, cord reels, water purifiers, shovels, soap, flashlights	16,000,000
Iraq	Flood	Mar. 30		Tents	20,968,000
North Korea	Train explosion	Apr. 25		Medicine, medical equipment	12,696,000
Dominican Republic	Torrential rain	May 26		Blankets, tents, polyethylene tanks, generators, sleeping mats, soap, towels	10,813,000
Haiti	Torrential rain	May 28		Blankets, tents, polyethylene tanks, generators, soap, sleeping mats, plastic sheets	10,299,000
Myanmar	Cyclone	May 28		Blankets, water purifiers, polyethylene tanks, plastic sheets	10,117,000
Nicaragua	Torrential rain	Jul. 8		Blankets, tents, generators, sleeping mats, polyethylene tanks, soap	11,496,000
Paraguay	Fire	Aug. 2		Siphoning tube, sphygmomanometer, surgical gloves, band-aids and other medical supplies, medicine for external use	5,000,000
Bangladesh	Flood	Aug. 6		Medical supplies, cooking utensils, clothing, buckets, soap, candles, etc.	28,000,000
Grenada	Hurricane	Sep. 13		Tents, plastic sheets, generators	6,664,000
Jamaica	Hurricane	Sep. 13		Tents, generators, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets	12,241,000
Haiti	Hurricane	Sep. 22		Blankets, tents, polyethylene tanks, generators, sleeping mats, plastic sheets	12,586,000
Panama	Torrential rain	Sep. 22		Tents, blankets, sleeping mats	9,673,000
Bahamas	Hurricane	Sep. 28		Tents, generators, plastic sheets, blankets, polyethylene tanks	5,526,000
Grenada	Hurricane (additional aid)	Oct. 7		Blankets, plastic sheets, water tanks, sleeping mats	6,922,000
Haiti	Hurricane (additional aid)	Oct. 8		Water tanks, polyethylene tanks, plastic sheets, generators	9,119,000
Indonesia	Earthquake	Nov. 17		Tents, sleeping mats, blankets, plastic sheets	12,794,000
Papua New Guinea	Volcanic eruption	Dec. 2		Plastic sheets, tents, blankets, water tanks, polyethylene tanks, water purifiers	11,000,000
Philippines	Torrential rain	Dec. 2		Tents, carpenters' tools, generators, polyethylene tanks, blankets, water purifiers, water tanks	28,173,000
Indonesia	Earthquake	Dec. 3		Plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats	10,800,000
Philippines	Torrential rain (additional aid)	Dec. 17		Water purifiers, generators, anti-malaria medicine, shovels	8,400,000
Sri Lanka	Tsunami	Dec. 26	Medical team (1 squadron) (20 people, 14 days)		
Sri Lanka	Torrential rain	Dec. 27		Tents, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, generators, cord reel, water purifiers, water tanks, soap, detergent	15,500,000
Maldives	Tsunami	Dec. 27		Tents, blankets, generators, polyethylene tanks, water tanks	9,700,000
Indonesia	Earthquake and tsunami	Dec. 27		Tents, blankets, generators	26,000,000
Sri Lanka	Tsunami	Dec. 27		Tents, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, generators, water purifiers, water tanks	14,700,000
Maldives	Tsunami	Dec. 28	Medical team (10 people, 11 days)		
Thailand	Tsunami	Dec. 28	Self-Defense Forces (591 people, 5 days)		
Thailand	Tsunami	Dec. 28	Rescue team (81 people, 23 days)		
Thailand	Tsunami	Dec. 28	Medical team (23 people, 14 days)		
Indonesia	Earthquake and tsunami	Dec. 29	Medical team (22 people, 14 days)		
Thailand	Tsunami	Dec. 31		Tents, blankets, water purifiers, generators, cord reels, medical supplies	10,000,000
2004 Totals			7	29	376,856,000

Transcending Organizational Boundaries to Advance Field-initiated ODA Reform: Report from Bangladesh

More than 1 billion people live in abject poverty today in developing countries around the world. What are Japan's development workers doing in the field to improve development assistance? I would like to explain this by citing Bangladesh as an example.

Bangladesh achieved its independence in 1971 after the civil war between East and West Pakistan. Today, it has a population 140 million, and the annual per capita income is about US\$400, roughly one-ninetieth of that in Japan. The vast majority of people do not have access to quality medical treatment when they are ill. One-third of the children who actually make it to the elementary school drop out before graduation. In big cities like Dhaka, one often encounters pitiful sights of beggars on the streets.

In this country, it is not only Japan and the other countries and international organizations that are extending assistance but also local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In recent years, there has been a trend towards what is known as "development partnership," in which all the development partners cooperate closely with the central government of the developing country at its core to enhance development effectiveness. Japan has also been undertaking innovative attempts in response to the initiatives from the field to make ODA more effective.

(photo)

In Bangladesh, the embassy of Japan along with the field offices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) established a joint taskforce four years ago and created working groups for priority sectors (currently covering 12 sectors). Under this framework, the taskforce has drawn up field-driven sector-specific policies to integrate various economic cooperation schemes—such as grant aid, technical cooperation, and yen loans. The taskforce also participates actively in local donor coordination meetings and promotes collaboration with other donor countries and organizations. In this way, we have been able to offer more effective and efficient assistance that is based on actual conditions in the field. We are also making better use of Japan's strengths in terms of experience and expertise.*

There have been regular development assistance study meetings with Japanese NGOs, businesses, and the Japanese staff of international organizations so that know-how from all areas is reflected in the government's aid policy. Websites, mailing lists, and e-bulletins are fully utilized to expand networks among people and facilitate information sharing. Furthermore, policy dialogues with the recipient government, revision of the country assistance program, a joint seminar with the World Bank, and a high-level joint visit with the United Kingdom (UK) were planned and carried out by our field offices with the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) headquarters in Tokyo.

On the challenges of development, there have been broad discussions in Japan as well as at international conferences but it is in the developing countries where individual development assistance programs are carried out on a daily basis. As front-line Japanese development workers, we would like to persistently advance reforms to make even better use of the ODA financed with Japanese taxpayers' money. (Kiya Masahiko, Counselor for Development Cooperation and Economic Affairs, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh)

* For more information on the activities of Japan's ODA Task Force in Bangladesh (Bangladesh Model), see the following website (Japanese only): <http://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/bdmodel/>