

Japanese People Active in the International Community and Diplomatic Roles

A Japanese People and Companies Active in the International Community

Overview

Mutually dependent relations are growing stronger within the international community with the advance of globalization, and the Japanese people are becoming increasingly interested in the role of Japan's diplomacy in international affairs and the international community. There are, in fact, a wide variety of non-governmental bodies from Japan carrying out their activities in countries around the world, including private-sector companies, international civil servants, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and Senior Overseas Volunteers, as well as exchange groups of many different types. The role be-

ing played by these organizations is increasingly important to the diplomacy carried out by the government. With this in mind, the government believes there is a need to give support to the activities of these people and organizations and to increase coordination with them.

At the same time, it is important to ensure an environment in which individual Japanese people working in the international community can engage in their activities overseas in safety. From this standpoint, the government is working to give better consular services and to strengthen its protection of Japanese people overseas, and at the same time is strengthening the footing that allows Japanese companies to carry out their business overseas unhindered.

1 The Activities of Japanese People and Companies

In recent years, Japanese people and companies have become remarkably active overseas. In particular, Japanese companies have tremendously advanced into foreign markets, and there are now some 40,000 Japanese companies overseas. Of these, 67.1% are in Asia, 14.8% in North America, 12.2% in Europe, 2.4% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1.7% in Oceania, 1.0% in the Middle East and 0.8% in Africa; the advance into Asian markets is particularly notable.¹ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has set up Contact Points in all Japanese embassies and consulates-general for support of Japanese companies, and has actively supported their

business activities as they expand in their respective countries and regions. Also, the number of Japanese businesspeople whose activities transcend national borders is increasing; these include not only the resident overseas staff of Japanese companies, but also people working for local subsidiaries. In addition, the number of Japanese active overseas in academic fields is increasing. There is currently a total of some 160,000 Japanese people² overseas active as students, researchers, or teachers, and it is expected that they will make an even greater contribution in many different fields around the world in the years ahead.

2 Japanese Staff Active in International Organizations

In search of the new order in the post-Cold War era, in view of the conflicts and terrorist acts recurring all over the world, there is a pressing need for the international community as a whole to cope with the issues that threaten the present political and security regimes. Also, as globalization advances apace, it is becoming ever more important to deal with problems on a global scale such as the environment, human rights and humanitarian issues, poverty, and infectious diseases. Given this situation, the role played by international organizations is

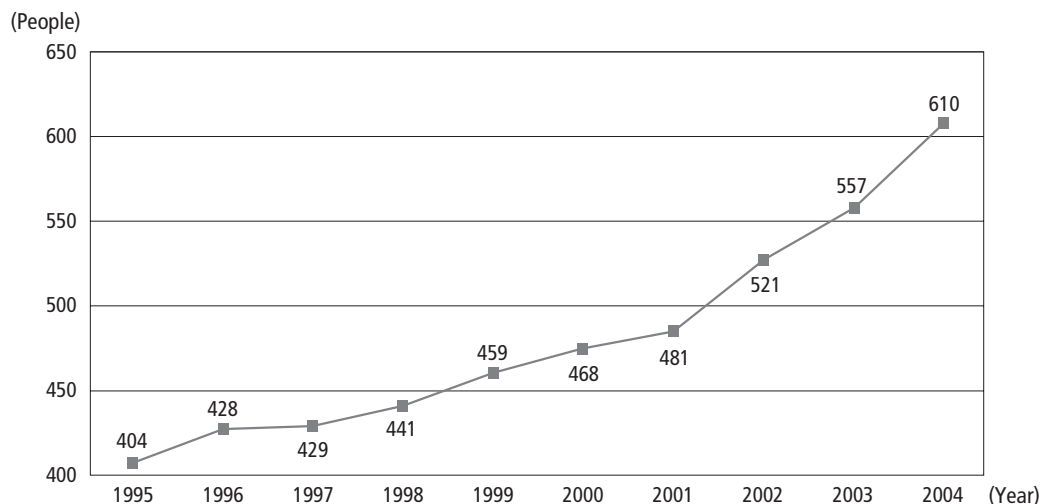
becoming more significant than ever. These are organizations such as the United Nations (UN) that have a mission to work for the common benefit of the entire international community. The duties and responsibilities of the international civil servants who work in international organizations are also becoming increasingly important.

In order to augment the number of Japanese staff in the UN and other international organizations, Japan has been making efforts to find competitive candidates

1. Figures from a fiscal year (FY) 2003 Ministry of Foreign Affairs survey. Japanese companies not registered with overseas establishments are not included.

2. Figure from a FY2004 MOFA survey, as of October 1, 2004.

Number of Japanese Staff in UN-related International Organizations



and to urge international organizations to take on and promote Japanese staff. Japan has also been working to increase the number of Japanese staff by making use of the Associate Expert (AE), Junior Professional Officer (JPO)³ and other programs for young candidates, and by accepting recruitment missions from the UN Secretariat and others. As a result of these efforts there has been a steady increase in the number of Japanese staff in international organizations. These include a range of people with different backgrounds, among them those who have been elected to top management in international organizations and those who have made a career

of working in such organizations. Furthermore, Japanese staff, from young newcomers to those at management level, are active in a variety of fields in countries around the world,⁴ including areas of conflict situations such as the areas around Iraq and Afghanistan. However, while there are 610 Japanese people working in UN-related international organizations (as of 2004), this is still not a level commensurate with the size of the financial contribution Japan makes to such organizations. Japan intends to continue to find competitive candidates and encourage international organizations to recruit Japanese people.

3. Under these programs, called the Associate Expert and Junior Professional Officer programs by international organizations, people who want to work in international organizations are dispatched to work at such organizations, in principle for two years, at the expense of the Japanese government. The purpose of the programs is to give people work experience to help them on their way to becoming full employees of international organizations. As of January 2005, 146 people had been dispatched.

4. Japanese staff that have been elected to head international organizations by the member countries include Matsuura Koichiro, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and Utsumi Yoshio, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Japanese staff in executive positions in international organizations include Niwa Toshiyuki, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Kuwabara-Yamamoto Sachiko, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. There are also many young staff members active in the front line.

Senior-level Officials at Major International Organizations

(As of the end of 2004, in alphabetical order)

| | |
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| Abe Nobuyasu | Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations (UN) |
| Akasaka Kiyotaka | Deputy Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) |
| Akiyama Ichiro | Director of Inspectorate Division, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Technical Secretariat (OPCW-TS) |
| Chino Tadao | President, Asian Development Bank (ADB) |
| Endo Hiroyoshi | Director of the Control, Prevention and Eradication of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization (WHO) |
| Endo Yasuo | Director, Liaison Office in Japan, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) |
| Hari Shunichi | Chief Finance Officer, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) |
| Hasegawa Sukehiro | Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) and Resident Representative for Timor-Leste, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| Hirose Haruko | Deputy Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) |
| Kato Takatoshi | Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) |
| Katsu Shigeo | Regional Vice President, Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank |
| Kobayashi Kenji | Director, Office of Oil Markets and Emergency Preparedness, International Energy Agency (IEA) |
| Kochi Arata | Special Advisor to Assistant Director General, World Health Organization (WHO) |
| Kuwabara-Yamamoto Sachiko | Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Basel Convention, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) |
| Matsuura Koichiro | Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) |
| Nishimoto Shoji | Director, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| Niwa Toshiyuki | Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) |
| Nomura Ichiro | Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) |
| Okaido Keiko | Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) |
| Okuda Chieko | Director of the Service, United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) |
| Omi Shigeru | Regional Director, Western Pacific Regional Office, World Health Organization (WHO) |
| Sekimizu Koji | Director, Maritime Safety Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO) |
| Shibuya Hironobu | Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) East Asia and Pacific Regional Office |
| Takagi Yoshiyuki | Executive Director, Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) |
| Takizawa Saburo | Controller and Director, Division of Financial and Supply Management, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) |
| Tanaka Nobuo | Director for Science, Technology and Industry, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) |
| Taniguchi Tomihiro | Deputy Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) |
| Tanimura Yorio | Director of Migration Management Services Department, International Organization for Migration (IOM) |
| Utsumi Yoshio | Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) |
| Waki Kunio | Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) |
| Yasui Itaru | Vice-Rector, United Nations University (UNU) |
| Yoshimura Yukio | Vice President and Special Representative, Japan, World Bank |
| Yoshinaga Kenji | Director, Land and Water Development Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) |
| Yuge Akiko | Director, Tokyo Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |

Visiting Developing Countries as a Goodwill Ambassador

Konno Misako, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador

Currently, as a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* Goodwill Ambassador, I visit various countries. So far, I have visited Cambodia (1999), Palestine (2000), Bhutan (2001), Ghana (2003), and Timor-Leste (2004). At first, I was a bit worried as to whether I would be able to fulfill such an important duty. However, I give my best in this work because, as a goodwill ambassador, I hope to make people feel a little more connected to the work in international cooperation.

During my visit to Ghana in 2003 I visited the Manya Krobo district, where there are a great many AIDS orphans. There, women known as “Queen Mothers” were raising these orphans as if they were their own children, with each woman looking after six children. In Ghana, there is a custom that if one person

gains riches, he or she divides them up and shares them among the poor. It made me think about such richness in spirit that is being lost in the developed countries. I was deeply moved to see these people working together to try to solve the grave problem of HIV/AIDS on their own, and I really felt that we needed to reach out and help them more.

In 2004, I visited Timor-Leste. The country only gained its independence in 2002 and still lacks basic infrastructure, such as roads, schools, and hospitals. The thing that struck me was the laughing voices of the children, who were playing innocently in the midst of the difficult environment. There must be many people who feel that peace has finally come when they see a scene like this, since during the period of internal conflict children couldn’t even play outside. However, when I asked the children about their dreams for the future, they had no answer. I realized that in order to enable them to have a bright future it is vitally important that we give all the assistance we can, and that we allow different types of industry to take root in the country.

While the innocence and charm of children are common in all countries, their standards of living and future prospects vary greatly depending on the environment they live in. As a mother, I intend to continue to appeal to the international community on behalf of the children of the world for what we can do to help them.

Development assistance is a bit like raising children in that it takes a long time, and the progress may not be spectacular. It is very important to promote solid development that is appropriate to the target country, without rushing to get results. I want to continue contributing toward the expansion of international cooperation by sharing with people in simple terms the things I have seen and felt at a grassroots level. (Konno Misako, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador)

(Photo)

* The UNDP provides assistance for the post-conflict reconstruction of countries like Afghanistan and carries out assistance activities until developing countries or regions are able to stand on their own feet.

Japanese Staff Active in International Organizations

Hasegawa Sukehiro, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, and Head of the UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET)

With assistance from the United Nations and the international community, Timor-Leste became the first nation to be born in this new century in May 2002. I first set foot there less than two months after its independence, on July 15, 2002. In the 15-minute journey from the airport to the government offices at the heart of the capital city of Dili, I passed through a town devastated by riots, but the cheerful faces of the people on the streets left a deep impression on me. In spite of the traumas they endured and the uncertainties about their future, they were filled with hope for the freedom they had just won. That made me realize that the smiles of these people, who for 24 years had struggled and longed for peace, must never be extinguished.

The United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET), the second peacekeeping mission of the United Nations in the country, was given the task of assisting the new Timorese government, which had been established in May 2002, in building a democratic society with sustainable political and administrative foundation. Concurrently, UNMISET was carrying out training of the local police force. The objective of the training was to help the police force to gain not only the capability to maintain public security, which is essential to protect human rights, but also the trust and confidence of the ordinary citizens in order to establish the rule of law. In addition, experts and specialists had been assigned to various ministries to ensure smooth functioning of the new government and other state institutions, and to assist in building a transparent and corruption-free administration.

One of the major roles of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General was to oversee and advise on the establishment of a framework for democratic governance that meets the standards of the international community. I met every week with Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, and gave advice on the challenges that Timor-Leste faces on a daily basis and on nation building for the future. I also took part in many of the dialogues between the central government officials and the local communities in order to determine the needs and priorities of the people. I regularly reported to the UN Security Council the status of reconstruction and development efforts made in Timor-Leste as well as the assistance still required by the country. In fulfilling all these responsibilities, I also had the major task of ensuring that the message of the international community reached the local people.

As I was acting concurrently as the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Timor-Leste, I was often provided with chances

to make trips to different regions of the country with President Xanana Gusmão as well as other top government officials to oversee various projects or for groundbreaking ceremonies. The helicopter that took us to these rural places we visited was the perfect setting for diplomacy, as I could have the sort of straightforward talk and frank exchange of opinions that I wouldn't be able to have during the course of my duties in the capital, Dili.

The Japanese government gave its strong support to my UN diplomacy in a number of ways. For example, it helped the people of Timor-Leste live with dignity by providing assistance for the restoration and maintenance of infrastructure, public service facilities and electricity and water supplies. The Self-Defense Forces (SDF) carried out maintenance and repairs of many main roads around the country as part of their peacekeeping operation (PKO), contributing to the spread of economic benefits among the local people. The UNDP Recovery, Employment and Stability Programme for Ex-combatants and Communities in Timor-Leste (RESPECT) played an important role in easing the dissatisfaction of former combatants. As a result of such contributions, a great many ordinary people in Timor-Leste, including the newly-established government officials, have developed deep respect and trust toward the Japanese people, which provided strong support for my diplomatic work.

At the moment, discussions are underway in the UN Security Council over the extension of the UN peacekeeping operation in Timor-Leste. With the large number of problems still remaining in Timor-Leste, and the lessons of Haiti* in mind, I would like to attend the forthcoming meeting of the UN Security Council in May 2005, so that Timor-Leste does not revert to a state of conflict and instability. (Hasegawa Sukehiro, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, and Head of the UN Mission of Support in East Timor)

(Photo)

* Following the military coup d'état in Haiti in 1991, the international community imposed economic sanctions on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution, and the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was deployed. As a result democracy was restored; however, in the light of the increasing activity of armed insurgents, a multinational force was again sent to Haiti in 2004 by the Security Council.

Japanese Staff Active in International Organizations

Waki Kunio, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

This year is my 35th year as an employee of the United Nations (UN). I joined the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the age of 27, and I was posted to New Delhi, India, in January 1971. I was newly married, and I knew little of UNICEF or India; that was the start of my life as an international civil servant. I remember that as the only Japanese employee, and as a candidate for a future management position, I was treated extremely well by my superiors. Immediately after arrival in India, I began my work as the representative for North India, spending one third of a month on negotiations with the local government, visiting villages, health centers and schools, or visiting sites where aid projects were being carried out.

I spent 26 years working for UNICEF, during which I was posted to Bangladesh, the UNICEF Headquarters in New York, the East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Pakistan, Nigeria, and the Tokyo office. I had a wide range of experiences; rendering emergency aid, procurement of goods, working for long-term social development plans and fundraising.

In 1997 the UN Secretary-General came up with a new plan for UN reform, as a result of which I was transferred to be the Associate Director of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). In UNDG all the UN organization worked together as a team, that was completely new to me, and some of my ideas were adopted.

In February 2000 I began work as the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) through the recommendation of the Japanese government. Five years have passed since then, and I am enjoying my final job with the UN. I am working intensively on bringing down the death rate among expectant and nursing mothers. Over the last 20 years we have had considerable success in bringing down the infant mortality rate, but we have failed to bring down the maternal mortality rate among expectant and nursing mothers in the poorest countries. There is an order of priority in many countries: men come first, then children, particularly boys, and mothers come last. The fact is expectant and nursing mothers are always last of all.

To reduce the maternal mortality rate among expectant and nursing mothers, we need emergency obstetric care as well as care provided by qualified health staff in the period of pregnancy, during and after birth. It is also important to avoid unwanted pregnancies by expanding family planning. Giving birth is thought to carry a 15% risk, therefore in order to reduce the maternal mortality rate it is crucial that doctors and properly equipped medical facilities exist nearby. A great many mothers still die because there are no telephones, transport is limited, and medical care reaches them too late. I believe that we all have responsibility for this.

Also, there are a great many women, particularly young girls, who are infected with HIV/AIDS, so we are working hard to prevent HIV infection. It is an enormously difficult task, but we need to make a special effort throughout the world to ensure we are not too late.

I believe the UN is a good place to work, where you are free to go about your work according to your conscience and your belief. It brings together people of ability from around the world, and while there is competition, people who constantly get results receive recognition for their contribution. I will continue with my work for two more years until I retire. After that I will pass the reins on to my successors, and devote myself to developing the next generation of people active in the international community. (Waki Kunio, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund)

(Photo)

3 The Activities of Japanese NGOs

Countries in the world have been cooperating either individually or through regional cooperation to solve the problems that the international community faces, and in this context the activities of civil society, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other groups have widened in scope in recent years. Japanese NGOs have been carrying out various activities not only in the fields of development assistance and emergency humanitarian relief, but also in the fields of environment, human rights, trade, and disarmament and non-proliferation. These NGOs are well matched to carrying out fine-tuned activities that are closely linked to local communities and citizens and that require swift and flexible responses. Their role in the international community is expected to continue to grow.

In recognizing the advantages of NGO activities as well as the increasing presence and role of NGOs, the government identified strengthening coordination with NGOs as one of its policies in the Ten Reform Principles to Ensure an Open Foreign Ministry. Close coordination with NGOs has consistently been an issue in this series of reforms. The need for strengthening coordination with NGOs was also pointed out in the proposals of the Reform Advisory Board and the 2nd Consultative Committee on ODA Reform.

In response to these developments, MOFA created the post of Ambassador for Civil Society in November 2002 with a view to promoting coordination with NGOs. The Ambassador for Civil Society participates as an intermediary in exchanges of opinions and information between MOFA and NGOs. The Ambassador for Civil Society also facilitates NGOs' participation in international conferences, where many opportunities for dialogue and cooperation with NGOs are scheduled.⁵

In comparison with NGOs from other leading developed countries, however, many Japanese NGOs have a rather weak financial and organizational base. To further increase their activities within the sphere of international cooperation, they need to strengthen their professional skills and their managerial capability. From this standpoint, MOFA, the Japan International Coop-

eration Agency (JICA), and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID) are carrying out a variety of programs in order to assist in strengthening the organization of NGOs and nurturing human resources.

The Field of Development Assistance

International cooperation activities of NGOs are extremely important, since they are capable of providing fine-tuned assistance that meets the diverse needs of developing countries and regions, as well as swiftly and flexibly implementing emergency humanitarian assistance activities. These activities are also extremely important in that they represent Japan's presence.

Since 1996 NGO-MOFA Regular Meetings have been held four times a year. Based on an awareness of the importance of the activities of NGOs, in 2002 MOFA established two subcommittees in addition to the plenary meeting: one on ODA policy, and the other on promoting NGO-MOFA collaboration.

Since fiscal 2002, NGO-embassy regular meetings, called "ODA Embassies," have been launched in developing countries where Japanese NGOs are active. The purpose of the meeting is to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation among NGOs, Japanese embassies, and overseas offices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). To date, "ODA Embassies" have been held in 12 countries, including Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Kenya.

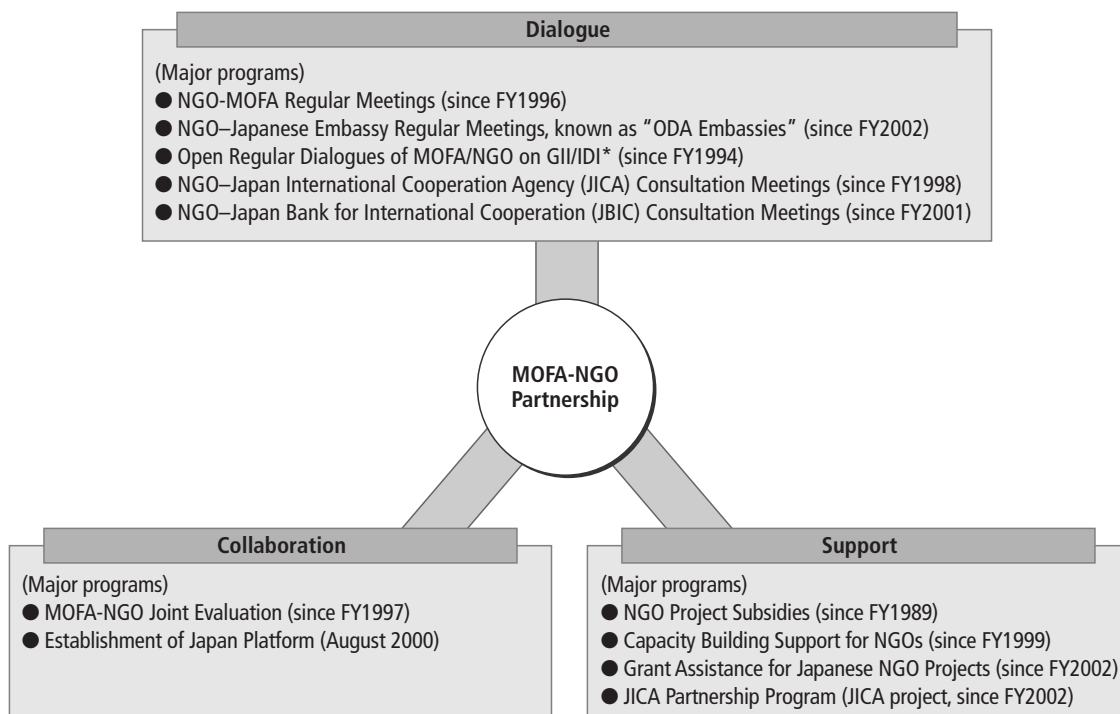
The financial support for NGO activities to date consisted of the NGO Project Subsidy and Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects. Support for NGOs has been enhanced by creation of the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and the JICA Partnership Program in fiscal 2002. The budgets in fiscal 2004 amounted to ¥2.7 billion and ¥1.58 billion, respectively. As part of this support, the scope of the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects has been expanded. This assistance can now be applied to cover the project expenses of an NGO's headquarters, something that had not previously

5. The NGO Liaison Center, headed by the Ambassador for Civil Society, was established as a contact point in MOFA for accepting all inquiries and requests from NGOs and passing them to the relevant divisions without delay. Address: NGO Liaison Center (within the Domestic Public Relations Division of the MOFA), 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919. Telephone: +81-3-3580-3311 (extension 4873), +81-3-5501-8046 (direct). In addition, the Fifteen Specific Measures for ODA Reform and the Action Plan for the Reform of the MOFA included the following concrete measures for strengthening coordination with NGOs: (1) reinforcing the functions of the existing NGO-MOFA Regular Meetings; (2) holding regular meetings between Japan's overseas establishments and NGOs (ODA Embassies); and (3) introducing Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects and the JICA Partnership Program to support further capacity building of NGOs in addition to their activities.

Partnership between MOFA and NGOs

Since NGOs can directly undertake fine-tuned assistance activities for beneficiaries in local communities, the role of NGOs in recent years has been growing in the fight against poverty and other problems in developing countries and in the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance to disaster and conflict torn areas. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is promoting Official Development Assistance (ODA) that emphasizes the partnership between MOFA and NGOs.

The relations between MOFA and NGOs have two aspects: collaboration, in which the human resources and expertise of NGOs are utilized in the implementation of ODA projects, and support, which is provided for the activities carried out by NGOs themselves through ODA. In order to enhance both aspects, MOFA believes it is important to strengthen dialogue with NGOs.



*GII: Global Issues Initiative on Population and AIDS

IDI: Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative. The Open Regular Dialogues of MOFA/NGO on GII was launched in FY1994 and renamed the Open Regular Dialogues of MOFA/NGO on GII/IDI under the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative that Japan announced at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in July 2000.

been applied. To ensure that funds are used appropriately, external audits are required for all projects covered by the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects.

Regarding emergency humanitarian relief activities conducted by NGOs, the government has contributed funds since fiscal 2001 (the government contributed a total of ¥2.7 billion in fiscal 2003) to enhance government-NGO coordination and allow Japanese NGOs to swiftly and effectively carry out their activities within the frame-

work of the Japan Platform (JPF).⁶ After US and UK forces launched the military operation against Iraq, a joint team composed of several NGOs participating in the JPF was among the first to set up an emergency medical system for refugees in the border region between Iraq and Jordan. In addition, the JPF member NGOs have been providing assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by distributing essential daily commodities, restoring hospitals and schools, and doing other activities.

6. The Japan Platform (JPF) was established in August 2000 under a framework developed through collaboration between the government and economic circles with the aim of enabling Japanese NGOs to swiftly and effectively implement emergency humanitarian assistance activities. The following NGOs participate in JPF: Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Japan, Shanti Volunteer Association, JEN, Save the Children Japan, Medical Relief Unit (MeRU) Japan, Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (NICCO), Japan Red Cross Society, The Japan Center for Conflict Prevention (JCCP), Japan Rescue Association, Association for Aid and Relief Japan, BHN Association, Peace Winds Japan, World Vision Japan, Humanitarian Medical Assistance (HuMA), Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support (JAHDS), Institute of Cultural Affairs: Japan (ICA Japan), and International Peace Assistance Center (IPAC).

Other Fields

An example of MOFA-NGO cooperation in the field of the environment was the dialogue on environmental education held in Tokyo in June as a prime mover project⁷ within the framework of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue to provide an opportunity for a frank exchange of information and views on environmental education. At the meeting, government officials from different countries reported on the measures and systems in place mainly in school education in their respective countries, while international organizations explained their efforts to promote education for sustainable development, and NGOs reported on their activities within local communities. Based on these reports, the meeting had a valuable discussion on the role of stakeholders such as government and NGOs in environmental education, collaboration, accumulating and exchanging information and knowledge, training, monitoring and evaluation. As a result of the meeting, the particular problems regarding environmental education in Asia and the direction to be taken in the future became clearer, and participants shared an understanding of the importance of environmental education efforts.

An example in the field of human rights is the dialogue held by MOFA with NGOs on children's issues. In March MOFA co-hosted with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the United Nations University in Tokyo the Symposium on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the ratification of the convention. As well as publicizing the significance and aims of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the symposium provided a chance for discussion based on the convention regarding issues relating to children, such as child abuse, truancy, bullying, and juvenile crime, which are of serious concern to Japanese society today. The panelists, who included experts and representatives of NGOs and other bodies, had a frank exchange of opinions on the current status of the problems surrounding children in Japan today. As a result of the symposium, there was a shared

awareness that not just governments but all sections of society must unite and work together in order to solve these problems. Taking this into consideration, the government will make still greater efforts to implement the terms of the convention.

Also, negotiations are taking place within the UN on a future new human rights convention, provisionally named the "International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities." At meetings on the new convention, disabled representatives have been included in the Japanese government delegations to act in an advisory capacity. NGOs have received much praise from Japan's disabled persons for their notable activities at international level, which have included hosting seminars relating to the convention as well as taking part in the UN conference.

Regarding trade, the government is aware that the understanding and cooperation of private sector organizations are indispensable in guiding the current round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations to a successful conclusion. As in the previous year, the government has been collaborating with NGOs in the trade field; in September MOFA held a briefing for non-governmental delegations on the decisions reached at the WTO General Council in July.

Regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, the MOFA has been giving assistance through the Grant Aid for Japanese NGO Projects to NGOs involved in demining activities in countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. MOFA also coordinates closely with NGOs over the issue of small arms and light weapons (SALW). As part of its efforts to solve the problem of SALW in the countries of the Pacific, it sponsored the Regional Seminar on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the South Pacific in August. With the participation of NGOs, there were lively discussions regarding regional cooperation and cooperation with civil society over legislative measures to prevent the illicit trade in SALW and their safe stockpiling and destruction.

7. Prime mover project: one or more countries take the lead in a project, and other countries that are ready and willing to participate do so without the need for a consensus.

4

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior Overseas Volunteers

In order to encourage international cooperation activities with public participation, Japan has been promoting programs to dispatch Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and Senior Overseas Volunteers. These are programs that dispatch Japanese people abroad who wish to dedicate their skills and knowledge to nation-building in developing countries while working together with the local people.

The JOCV program for people aged from 20 to 39 has dispatched a total of 26,510 people to 78 countries since it was established and dispatched 26 people to the Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Laos in 1965. The Senior Overseas Volunteer program is for people aged from 40 to 69 and has dispatched 2,101 people to 54 countries since its launch in 1990. As of the end of December 2004, 2,654 JOCVs are dispatched to 69 countries and 775 senior volunteers to 53 countries.

The activities of the volunteers cover a wide range of fields, including agriculture, forestry and fisheries, civil engineering, health and hygiene, and education and cul-

ture. As of the end of December 2004, the cooperation of the JOCVs covers 142 occupational categories in seven fields and that of the Senior Overseas Volunteers covers 64 occupational categories in nine fields. Based on requests from developing countries, the volunteers carry out activities fine-tuned to the needs of the international community, such as the establishment in 2003 of measures against HIV/AIDS as a new category for cooperation.

As well as making a contribution to developing countries, the JOCVs and the Senior Overseas Volunteers conceive and implement ideas together with the local people. By promoting “visible” cooperation, they play an important role in furthering mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and developing countries. Also, after returning home the volunteers put their experiences to use in various ways in Japan, such as by sharing them in places of education or at community level. The unique activities of these volunteers have been highly evaluated both in Japan and the countries to which they were dispatched.

Child Protection Activities during a Disaster

The Asian region suffered enormous damage as a result of the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Immediately following the disaster, emergency relief teams were put together in stricken areas by Save the Children from different countries. These teams distributed food and supplies, looked after children who were victims of the disaster and gave assistance to people who had lost their livelihoods in fishing or tourism.

Staff members of Save the Children Japan were sent to the town of Matara in the south of Sri Lanka. It used to be a peaceful area with beautiful beaches, but the tsunami had taken the lives of a great many people and completely changed the lives of those who survived. Many people whose homes had been destroyed were living in schools or temples, or else in tents set up on playing fields. We visited these refugee camps, distributing rice, dried foodstuffs, and other provisions; daily necessities, such as soap and towels; and school supplies, such as pencils and notebooks.

(Photo)

When we visited the refugee camps, the children rushed to meet us with a smile, and they helped us unload the supplies. However, I knew that behind their worry-free, smiling faces they were suffering the trauma of the tsunami and the tremendous stress of living in the difficult conditions of the refugee camps. At one village I met a boy who had lost his mother and siblings in the tsunami. It was heartbreaking to see him clutching three photos of them taken after their bodies were found. In the tsunami, more than 3,200 children lost their parents in Sri Lanka alone.

The best medicine to heal the psychological damage of children like this is to play as much as they can. We gave our support to help them return to normal life as quickly as possible by giving balls, skipping ropes, games, coloring pictures, and picture books to the children living in the refugee camps and by playing with them from time to time.

Many fishermen lost their boats or nets in the tsunami, and people who used to work in hotels and restaurants also lost their livelihoods. Save the Children started up a program to give these victims some cash income by hiring them to clear the rubble and trash that had accumulated in the schools and along the roads or to make blocks necessary for rebuilding houses.

Many organizations, companies and individuals in Japan have donated money to help the stricken area. It will take time to rebuild the areas destroyed by the disaster, and Save the Children will continue its task of helping the child victims of the disaster and contributing to reconstruction. (Takeda Kazuyo, Save the Children Japan)

B Safety Measures, Reform of Consular Services for Japanese Nationals Overseas, and Enhancement of Crisis Management

(a) Overview

In the international community today, with the increase in the movement of people among countries, the number of Japanese nationals traveling and living overseas is expected to increase substantially. At the same time, the number of foreign nationals visiting and living in Japan is also expected to increase. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), recognizing that consular services promoting people-to-people exchanges among different countries will become more important than ever before, has been endeavoring, together with overseas establishments, to provide considerate, easy-to-understand consular services and to ensure the security of Japanese nationals overseas. The Foreign Ministry has also been taking positive measures on issues relating to foreign nationals in Japan.

(b) Improving Consular Services

Establishment of the Consular Affairs Bureau

With the ever-greater movement of people among different countries, the importance of consular services as a point of contact for Japanese nationals overseas is becoming more vital than ever before.

With a view to strengthening the consular system in order to enhance consular services for Japanese nationals, ensure security, and enhance response to emergency situations for Japanese nationals overseas, the Foreign Ministry upgraded the Consular and Migration Affairs Department to the Consular Affairs Bureau under the institutional reforms implemented on August 1, 2004. In conjunction with the establishment of the Consular Affairs Bureau, the Foreign Ministry established the Consular Services Headquarters to encourage the ministry as a whole to respond more promptly and effectively to broader consular issues and provide more meticulous consular services. The ministry has also made continued efforts to provide thorough consular services, attaching great importance to both attending to the public and implementing policies, which are the two pillars of consular services.

Furthermore, as a part of the strengthening of the consular system, the function of consular affairs is being

reinforced from both “hard” and “soft” aspects. This includes such measures as giving further training to develop staff with specialized skills.

Advisors on Consular Affairs

In terms of making window services at overseas establishments more accessible to Japanese nationals, a system of Advisors on Consular Affairs was introduced in December 2003, and these advisors are expected to present proposals for improving consular services and give advice to Japanese residents. Under this system, 10 volunteers with a good knowledge of local conditions and extensive business experience from private-sector companies or similar organizations have been assigned to overseas establishments.¹ These volunteers work as consular affairs advisors at overseas establishments, protecting Japanese people overseas and promoting their interests. Their activities include accepting passport applications, giving guidance on paperwork regarding various applications, and offering consultation on various issues. Furthermore, their proposals are proving useful in the discussions held at the Consular Services Headquarters.

The Council on the Movement of People Across Borders

The Council on the Movement of People Across Borders is an advisory council of the minister for foreign affairs chaired by Kumagai Kazuo, Senior Advisor of Hitachi Ltd. On October 5, 2004, the council submitted a report to Minister for Foreign Affairs Machimura Nobutaka entitled “Reform of Consular Affairs and New Approaches on Issues of Foreigners in the Changing World,” which compiled the results of two years of discussions. The report contains concrete proposals in three important areas: consular services that focus on people; safety measures and crisis management for Japanese nationals overseas; and issues related to foreigners.

Ensuring the safety of Japanese nationals overseas is one of the most important tasks of the Foreign Ministry. Based on the report of the Council on the Movement of People Across Borders, the Foreign Ministry has been working to further strengthen various safety measures and its response to incidents and accidents, such as

1. As of December 2004, Advisors on Consular Affairs have been assigned to nine overseas establishments in Bangkok, Seoul, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Manila, Sydney, New York, Los Angeles, and Paris.

An Advisor on Consular Affairs

At the beginning of 2003 I was struck by a newspaper article that said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was advertising for volunteers.

After passing my sixtieth birthday I wanted to do volunteer work in the United States (US), where I had business experience, acting as a bridge between the US and Japan. I applied straight away, took a written exam in July, and was interviewed in September. A letter of acceptance arrived in October, I quit the company where I had been working in November, and in early December I was dispatched to the Consulate-General of Japan in New York. As an advisor I am busy every day, but it is very rewarding work.

The Advisor on Consular Affairs system started in December 2003 as part of the Foreign Ministry's reforms to improve consular affairs, namely the administrative services offered by overseas establishments. In the first round of the program, 10 people were sent to various overseas establishments.

When I first started working, I was rather perplexed by the differences in the working environment between the government and the private sector, but I had the support of the whole consulate-general. I have put forward some proposals to improve service, which I felt were necessary after working at the consular teller window and waiting on visitors. I have also listened to requests regarding the consulate-general when I visited companies to encourage people to register as

overseas voters for elections. Furthermore, I helped with the protection of Japanese nationals. In September 2004 I set up consular consulting services via telephone and e-mail. Since then, I have accepted all requests and questions.

Consultations cover a wide range of topics, and not a few cases involve mental disorders, divorce, or aging; one can conclude that current social concerns in Japan are also shared among Japanese people living in the US. Surprisingly, more than 20% of the consultations were from people living outside the US, mainly Japan. In the spirit of providing good service and with the help of people in and around the consulate-general I have worked hard to give useful answers to their questions. More than anything else, expressions of gratitude from people I have helped give me the energy to keep going.

Japanese nationals have generally had a favorable assessment of the consular window services here. This is probably the result of the efforts of the whole consulate-general to raise awareness of the protection of Japanese nationals since the terrorist attacks in the US. The local staff working at the consular windows are the first point of contact with visitors, and in this sense they play a huge role in ensuring quality consular services. I think it is very important to build up a system that allows them to go about their work cheerfully and with enthusiasm.

I and other members of the first group of Advisors on Consular Affairs have been fulfilling our duties by accurately grasping local needs. As a result, our efforts have been highly appreciated by Japanese nationals overseas and have also been featured in the media in each of the countries where we work. I am convinced that this has been good publicity for the Foreign Ministry's efforts toward reform. By continuing the Advisor on Consular Affairs system, exchange between the government and the private sector can make overseas consulates closer to the people who use them, and I look forward to further reforms in this direction. (Ichikawa Shunji, Advisor on Consular Affairs, Consulate-General of Japan in New York)

(Photo)

support for victims and their families. It has also been improving consular services. Furthermore, with the increased movement of people among countries, there are now nearly 2 million foreign nationals resident in Japan. The Foreign Ministry will collaborate with the relevant ministries and agencies and strengthen its efforts regarding issues encountered by foreigners in Japan.

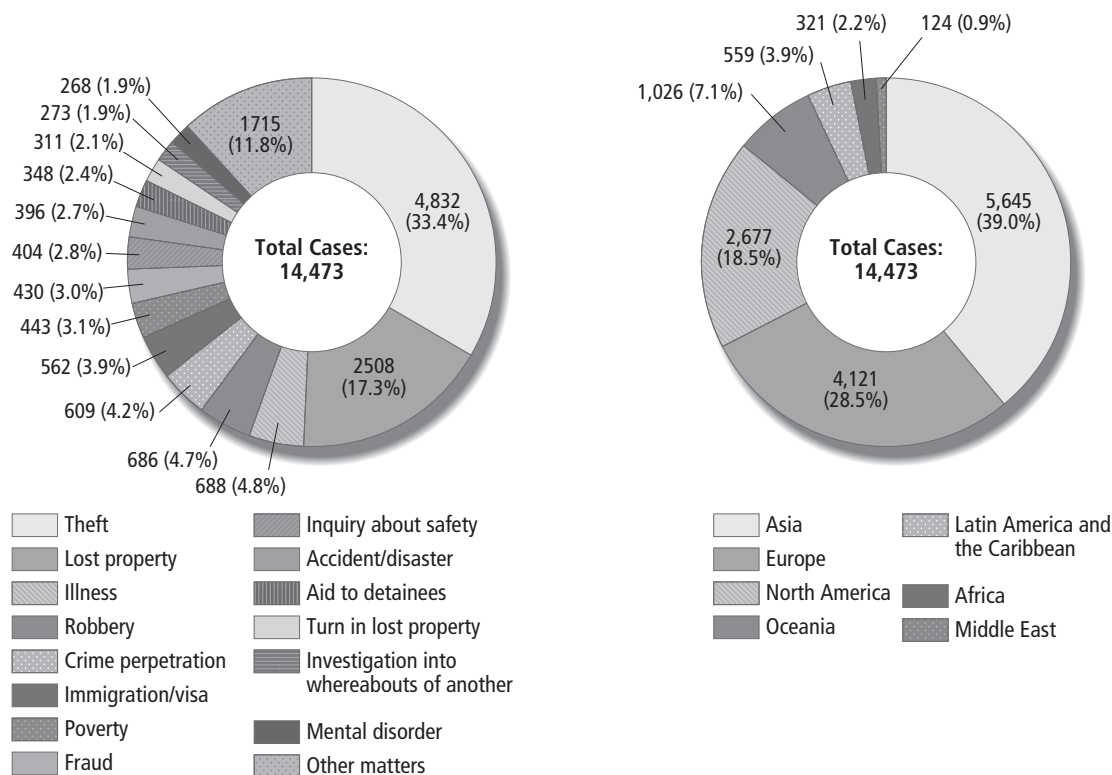
(c) Safety Measures for Japanese Nationals Overseas

During 2004, 16.83 million Japanese nationals (provisional figure) traveled overseas, and a total of approximately 960,000 Japanese were long-term residents abroad, including permanent residents (as of October 1, 2004). The number of Japanese nationals involved in incidents or accidents overseas has consequently increased; 17,417 people were involved in 14,473 cases in which Japanese embassies or other overseas establishments were engaged during 2003 (figures for 2004 are being compiled). MOFA and its overseas establishments have given appropriate assistance to Japanese nationals involved in incidents or accidents, while providing information and advice to prevent Japanese nationals from getting involved in incidents or accidents.

Major Incidents and Accidents in 2004 and MOFA's Response

One of the biggest incidents or accidents involving Japanese nationals overseas in 2004 was the Sumatra earthquake and the Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26, which took the lives of over 200,000 people in many countries. As of March 28, 2005, 34 Japanese nationals were confirmed dead in this tragedy. In other incidents, 2 Japanese nationals lost their lives in a mountain-climbing accident in California, US, and 2 more lost their lives in an avalanche in Nepal. Since October 2003, Japan has frequently been mentioned as a target for attack in statements believed to come from Islamic extremists. Among the cases in which Japanese nationals became the victims of terrorism or abduction overseas were the abductions of 5 Japanese nationals (April), the attack on 2 Japanese journalists (May), and the abduction and murder of a Japanese national (October). There were also a number of incidents around the world that might have involved Japanese nationals, such as the train bombings in Madrid, Spain (March); the attack on oil companies in Saudi Arabia (May); the commercial aircraft crash in Russia (August); and the bombings in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt (October).

Cases of Support for Japanese Nationals Overseas in 2003 by Incident and Region



“Don’t Get Involved in Drugs”: India’s Example

Restrictions on and penalties for drug use around the world are getting more stringent all the time, and there are quite a few countries that have penalties far heavier than in Japan, including the death penalty. Still, the number of the cases in which Japanese people commit drug-related crimes overseas is increasing. According to statistics on assistance the government of Japan gave to Japanese nationals overseas in 2003, the number of drug cases reached 63 involving 69 people (46 people in the Asian region). Over two-thirds of the Japanese nationals committing drug crimes abroad are in their twenties or thirties, and most were travelers. It goes without saying that drugs are illegal regardless of country. In recent years, though, particularly in India, the number of Japanese people arrested for possessing or smuggling drugs (in most cases marijuana or hashish) has been rising. For example, there is a case of a young Japanese backpacker who was visiting India for the first time. He started smoking marijuana, thinking lightly that this would not lead to anything serious. After a few months in the country, though, he developed a dependency and while traveling across the country on a long-distance bus, he was arrested by the police for having several hundred grams of marijuana in his baggage.

It is not very well known, but in 1985 India amended its drugs laws to enforce much stricter penalties for drug possession or use, and simple pos-

session may lead to not only a fine but also long periods of detention, including imprisonment from 10 to 20 years. Repeated smuggling offenses may even result in the death penalty.* Furthermore, many Japanese people can hardly imagine how long they may be detained before the completion of a trial and how severe the conditions in prison are. Even in the case of a lenient sentence, the price one pays may be very high.

A more significant source of distress to consular officials around the world, not just in India, is having to look after travelers who suffer mental disorders caused by drug use. The number of such people is much higher than the number of drug arrests. There are increasing reports of Japanese acting so violently in their hotels that they become uncontrollable. There have also been cases of Japanese people suddenly becoming violent at airport terminals prior to boarding. Once people reach such a stage, it is extremely difficult for them to beat their addiction with just their willpower. They usually need to receive psychiatric treatment, and when they return to Japan they must be accompanied by a medical doctor. We must seriously think about the burden this causes, both mentally and financially, on the families back in Japan. The Japanese saying that there is “no need to worry about manners while traveling” does not hold true abroad. One must never dabble in drugs in any way.

* There is a case in which a Japanese person charged with drug smuggling in China was given a death sentence with no stay of execution. The sentence is now under appeal.

Regarding crisis management following emergencies, 10 Japanese nationals in Samawah, Iraq, were evacuated to Kuwait in April on board a Self-Defense Force aircraft in accordance with Article 100-8 of the Self-Defense Forces Law amid fears of deteriorating security. And an operation to evacuate 31 Japanese nationals from Côte d’Ivoire, including residents and short-stay visitors, was carried out after disturbances broke out in November. In order to further reinforce the system to protect Japanese nationals in times of crisis, MOFA conducts constant assessments of crisis management systems at overseas establishments and has been training staff to respond to possible scenarios that would call for the evacuation of Japanese nationals.

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of cases overseas where Japanese people commit crimes or illegal acts and are arrested and punished by the local authorities. In particular, from 2003 to 2004, 17 Japanese nationals were arrested in China on suspicion of smuggling drugs, and one was handed a death sentence at the first trial with no stay of execution (as of December 31, 2004, the sentence is under appeal). MOFA has been giving necessary support to such detainees, including consular visits.

During 2004 there were many reports in Japan of victims of the so-called “*ore-ore*” (“It’s me!”) telephone scam, in which people are duped into making bank transfers to the fraudster’s account. Some of these fraud-

ulent demands for money transfers were made to the homes in Japan of Japanese nationals traveling or studying overseas. Some sought MOFA’s advice, but there were also a number of cases in which victims were swindled into transferring money.

Providing Information and Publicizing and Disseminating Travel Advice

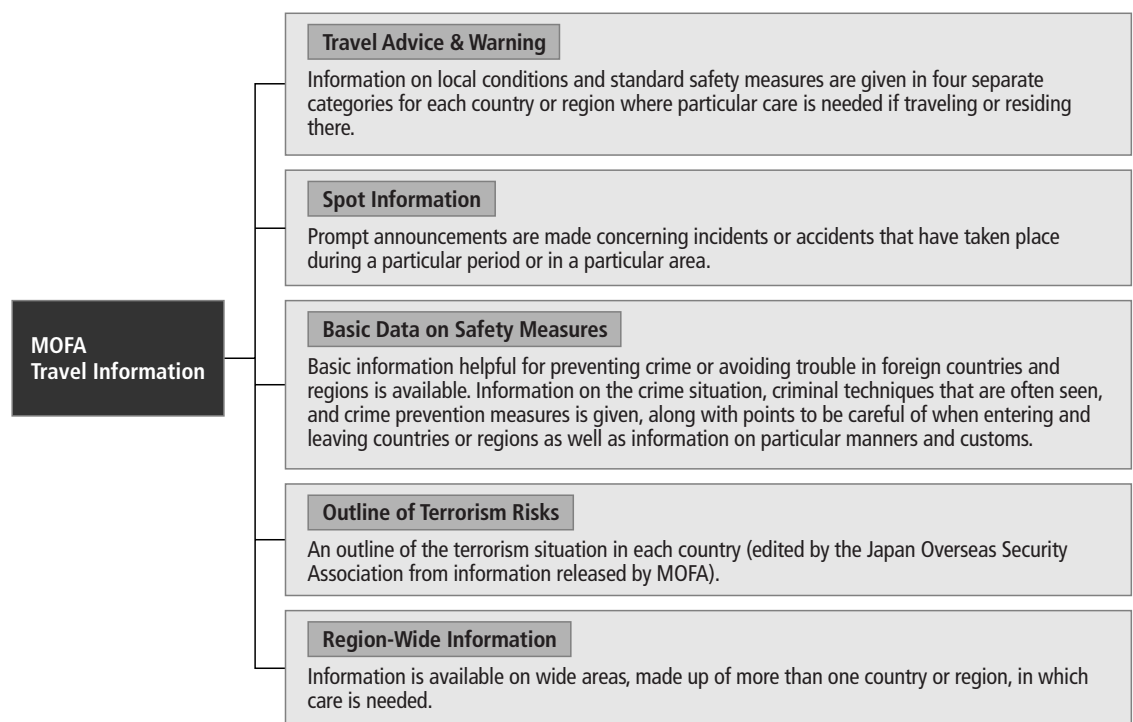
Whenever Japanese people encounter danger overseas, MOFA puts its fullest efforts into giving assistance based on the conditions at that particular time. But what is important above all is that each individual citizen acts with judgment and responsibility to avoid danger as far as possible and not to get involved in incidents or accidents overseas.

From this standpoint, MOFA provides various types of information, including “travel information,” to Japanese citizens. Travel information is widely available to Japanese citizens on the MOFA Overseas Safety Website (<http://www.mofa.go.jp/enzen>, Japanese only), and via a MOFA overseas safety information fax service (+81-422-42-4601 for international calls, 0570-023300 for domestic calls), an e-mail service giving the latest travel information, and travel agents. MOFA also tries tirelessly to increase the public’s security awareness through the Overseas Security Information Center,

which answers inquiries from citizens; various lectures; liaison meetings with travel agencies; overseas safety campaigns aimed at younger age groups; and Crisis Management Seminars to prevent damage from terrorism, which are held in major cities in Japan for companies sending staff overseas. Moreover, MOFA has been making efforts to improve safety measures through cooperation between the public and private sectors, including through the Council for Public-Private Cooperation for Overseas Safety, which is a forum for exchanging opinions with companies operating overseas. In addition to efforts at home, MOFA has been working to provide timely and appropriate information to overseas Japanese nationals by sending e-mails of travel information; holding meetings on safety measures with Japanese nationals; and hosting Crisis Management Seminars that provide the latest information about terrorism in the host country and feature lectures about security measures against terrorism.

Regarding Iraq, where the security situation is extremely serious, MOFA has had an evacuation advisory covering all residents in the country since February 2003. In 2004 the ministry recommended putting off traveling to Iraq for any reason and for all Japanese people already in Iraq to evacuate quickly by issuing “spot information,” which warns of terrorist or kidnapping

Travel Information System and Outline





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安全対策基礎データテロ概要の更新履歴

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海外安全相談センターからのお知らせ

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海外安全お役立ち情報

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過去の情報検索 (失効情報含む)

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危険情報・スポット情報・広域情報の更新履歴

更新履歴 (最新情報10日分)

◆危険情報 ◆スポット情報 ◆広域情報

- 2005/03/10 中国に対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- ◆ 2005/03/10 サウジアラビア：ジッダの複合住宅施設に対するテロの脅威
- ◆ 2005/03/10 イラク：治安情勢
- ◆ 2005/03/10 イラン：サッカー・ワールドカップ予選を観戦される方へ
- 2005/03/09 セルビア・モンテネグロに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- 2005/03/09 フィリピンに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- 2005/03/09 ブルンジに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- ◆ 2005/03/09 アフガニスタン：治安情勢 (その2)
- ◆ 2005/03/09 セルビア・モンテネグロ：コソボにおける治安情勢 (続報)
- ◆ 2005/03/09 ボリビア：メサ大統領選挙表明後の抗議行動の状況
- 2005/03/07 マダガスカルに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- ◆ 2005/03/07 キルギス：議会議長に伴う国内情勢の不安定化
- ◆ 2005/03/07 パキスタン：北方地域の治安情勢
- ◆ 2005/03/07 ボリビア：社会団結等による抗議行動の発生
- 2005/03/04 ブチチに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- ◆ 2005/03/04 パンラダシュ：外国人に対するテロの脅威
- 2005/03/03 ウズベキスタンに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- 2005/03/03 イラクに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- ◆ 2005/03/03 モルディブ：モルディブにおける津波被害
- ◆ 2005/03/03 イラク：治安情勢
- 2005/03/02 スーダンに対する選航情報 (危険情報) の発出
- ◆ 2005/03/02 イラン：サッカー・ワールドカップ予選に伴う留置事項

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“Personal Responsibility”: Avoiding Danger

In connection with the incident in which Japanese nationals were taken hostage in April 2004, there have been lively discussions about personal responsibility. The phrase “personal responsibility” was even selected as one of the top 10 expressions in the 2004 Japanese Buzzwords of the Year Awards.

However, different people interpret the term “personal responsibility” in different ways. There are also cases in which it is misinterpreted, such as in “MOFA stresses personal responsibility in order to wriggle out of its obligation to protect Japanese nationals.”

Of course, that is not MOFA’s intention. It regards the protection of Japanese nationals as an important duty of the government, and there will be no change whatsoever in its policy of trying its utmost to assist all Japanese citizens whenever they happen to face danger overseas. In fact, when the Japanese nationals were taken hostage in Iraq, MOFA staff were mobilized to work for their safe and swift release, and the ministry made every possible diplomatic endeavor on behalf of the hostages.

However, the responsibility for ensuring security in foreign countries lies with the government of the

country in question. What the Japanese government can do depends on these countries. For example, in Iraq the security situation is extremely serious because of terrorist activity. The staff of the Japanese embassy are limited in their movements, as they are constantly exposed to the threat of terrorism. Under such conditions, there are severe restrictions on what they can do to offer protection to Japanese nationals. Therefore, it is all the more important for individual citizens to do everything they can to avoid danger, to be fully aware of danger, and to act prudently in order to ensure their own safety. MOFA believes that such judgments should be made under their own responsibility.

MOFA will continue working to disseminate appropriate information about safety. We hope all Japanese citizens traveling or residing overseas will continuously make use of the travel information and be fully aware of danger, and will act prudently to avoid meeting unexpected eventualities. Particularly in cases like Iraq, where evacuation recommendations have been given in MOFA’s travel information, we ask that people pay special heed to this recommendation in order to avoid the danger of terrorism or kidnapping and that they refrain from travel to such areas.

threats, 58 times. After the abduction cases involving Japanese nationals in April, MOFA has been making further efforts to prevent the recurrence of similar cases, such as by improving the way travel advisories and warnings are indicated and bolstering all forms of PR activities.

(d) Promotion of Exchange and Security Measures

To ensure domestic security and prevent international crime, MOFA has been strengthening measures for the issuance of visas as well as the issuance, management, and counter-forgery systems for passports. At the same time, it has been continuing to simplify and expedite visa procedures to encourage international exchange.

A great many people from overseas visit Japan. In 2004, 6.76 million foreign nationals entered the country, and there were 1.92 million foreign residents. While such people-to-people exchange with foreign countries has been invigorated, it is also important for overseas establishments to prevent in advance the entry into Japan

of terrorists, criminals, and other foreign nationals who should not be permitted into the country. To efficiently check the entry of such foreigners at the stage of visa issuance, the visa wide area network (visa WAN) system was put into operation in December 2002 and continues to expand. This system has allowed all the information from the screening and issuance of visas to be shared immediately between MOFA and all overseas establishments.

In recent years there have been more than a few cases of misuse of travel documents, such as passports, including forgery and use by imposters. How to prevent these has been an issue of international concern. Particularly since the terrorist attacks in the US, there have been active discussions over reinforcing the system of issuance and management of travel documents and measures against forgery at various international meetings, such as the Group of Eight (G8), with a view to preventing illegal travel documents from being used to facilitate terrorists traveling from one country to another. An example of security measures of passports is biometrics—

personal identification technology that uses electronically stored biological information to confirm a person's identity. Japan has played an active role in the discussions concerning the introduction of this technology and its interoperability at the international level. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) adopted a set of standards for biometric passports (e-passports) in May 2004. Japan has been making efforts to start issuing e-passports, which carry IC chips containing facial images as biometric information, that comply with international standards by March 2006. MOFA believes that close cooperation between Asian countries will make an effective contribution to measures against passport crimes. From this perspective, MOFA has held the Asian Workshop on Passport Policy since fiscal 2003 and has been making efforts toward building a system for sharing information on trends in passport crimes, strengthening issuance systems, and improving technology for preventing forgery and imposters.

(e) Assistance for Living Overseas

With the increase in the number of Japanese nationals residing overseas, the consular services required to ensure the safety and comfortable overseas activities of Japanese people have become more complex and wider in scope. The major concerns of people living overseas are local security, education, and medical services. Based on this, as part of its efforts to develop the environment in order to improve the welfare of people overseas, MOFA has continued to carry out assistance for Japanese schools and supplementary education schools, particularly the safety of schools for Japanese people, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

MOFA has also actively been providing medical information, such as the spread of infectious diseases overseas, through travel information ("spot information," "region-wide information," and "travel advice & warning") based on information from governments and organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, it has dispatched medical teams since 1972 with the cooperation of domestic medical organizations to provide health consultation to Japanese nationals residing in those developing countries whose medical situation is generally poor. These medical teams were dispatched to 37 countries in 2004.

In addition to these efforts, in recent years MOFA has been promoting discussions with relevant countries on new fields, such as issues concerning dual payment of social security contributions, cases in which persons are not entitled to pensions because of lack of periods of

contributions, and facilitation of procedures for acquiring driver's licenses in foreign countries, in response to requests from Japanese nationals and corporations overseas. In the field of social security, bilateral social security agreements signed with the US and with the Republic of Korea (ROK), respectively, were approved by the Diet in June 2004, and basic agreement was reached on draft proposals with France and with Belgium. Regarding mutual exemptions from examinations for driving licenses, Japan has exchanged notes with Poland in April 2004. In addition, the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, which aims at promoting the social rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts serving sentences overseas into society in their home countries, entered into force with respect to Japan in June 2003. So far, seven convicts have been transferred from Japan to their home countries.

(f) Overseas Voting

Following a partial revision of the Public Offices Election law in 1998, a system for overseas voting was established, which made it possible for people to exercise their right to vote in national elections while living abroad (currently, only in the proportional representation segment of elections for the House of Representatives and House of Councillors). Overseas voting is extremely important as a chance for the voice of overseas voters to be reflected in national politics. Overseas voters have participated so far in the House of Representatives general election in June 2000, the House of Councillors ordinary election in July 2001, the House of Representatives general election in November 2003, and the House of Councillors ordinary election in July 2004, in which approximately 20,500 overseas voters cast their votes.

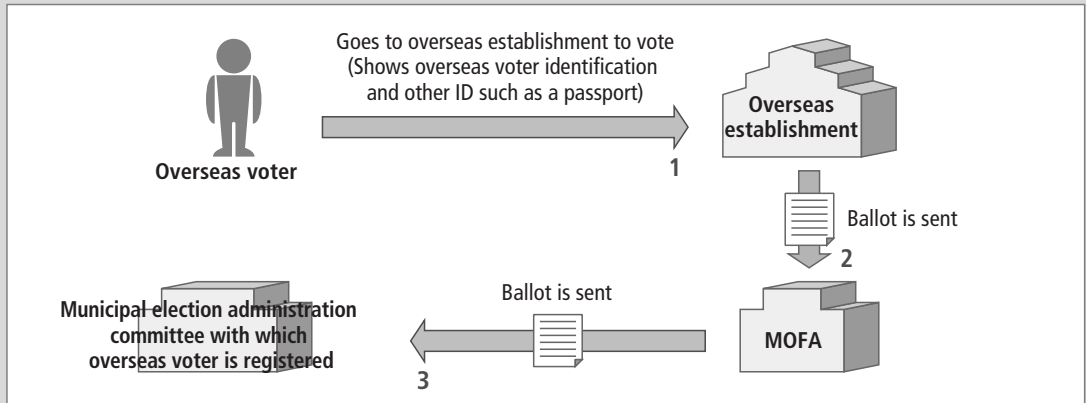
In order to vote overseas, it is necessary to be registered in advance in the overseas voter directory and to obtain overseas voter identification. Overseas establishments have been making efforts to increase the number of registered voters by publicizing this system and carrying out a visiting service to register Japanese nationals living in remote areas. Moreover, the Public Offices Election Law was partially revised in 2003 to make the overseas voting system more convenient. As a result of this, overseas voters were able to choose voting methods in the House of Councillors ordinary election in July 2004, either voting at an overseas establishment or postal voting, and the number of overseas establishments acting as overseas balloting stations was increased from 165 (including provisional consular offices) to 194. In addition, it has become possible to register family members living in the same residence.

Mechanism for Overseas Voting

1. Overseas Establishment Voting

Voters who are registered in the overseas voter directory can vote at overseas establishments (embassies and consulates-general) with polling places by showing their overseas voter identification and other identification, such as a passport. In principle, the period for voting is from the day after the election is publicized or announced in Japan to the day decided upon by each diplomatic mission, and the time for voting is from 9:30 to 17:00. (Periods and times for voting differ according to each overseas establishment.)

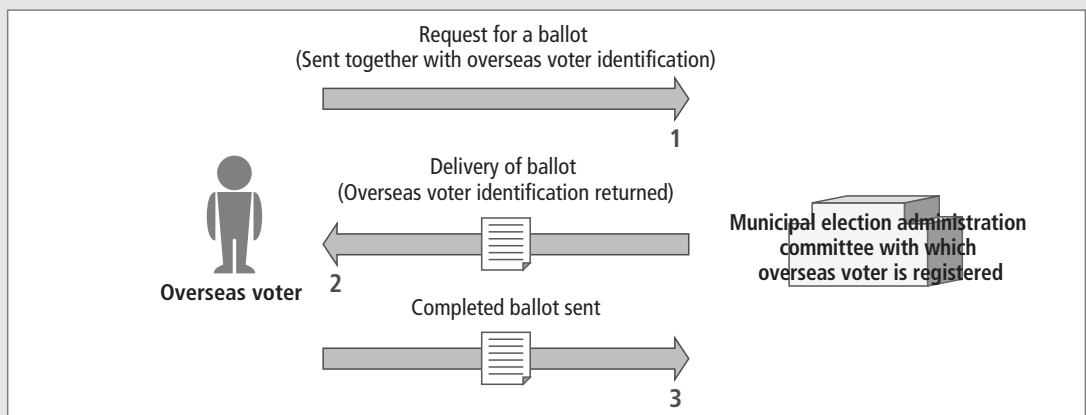
Note: Voters can vote by choosing either overseas establishment voting or postal voting.



2. Postal voting

For postal voting, the voter sends his or her "overseas voter identification" and a "ballot request form" to the municipal election administration committee with which he or she is registered and requests a ballot in advance. The voter sends the completed ballot to the municipal election administration committee so that it arrives at the voting office by the end of the voting time (20:00) on the last day of the voting period.

Note: Voting begins the day after an election is publicized or announced, so the completion of ballots and the sending of completed ballots begin on the day after the election is publicized or announced.



3. Voting in Japan

Overseas voters who temporarily return to Japan during an election, or who have returned to Japan but have not yet been registered in the voters' directory, can vote using the same procedures as domestic voters (voting before the deadline, absentee voting, voting within the period of voting).

(g) Issues Relating to Foreigners in Japan

There are currently 1.92 million foreigners resident in Japan, accounting for 1.5% of the country’s population, and their number is expected to increase substantially in the future. Among foreigners who remain in Japan for a relatively long time, issues facing them, particularly people of Japanese descent who are concentrated in certain regions, have become obvious. Specifically, lack of stable employment, unequal employment conditions, non-enrollment in social insurance, school non-attendance by children of compulsory education age, and frequent crimes, including youth crime, have been pointed out. The relevant government authorities have taken a variety of steps to tackle these issues. As the issues involve a wide range of ministries and agencies, it is important for the government to adopt a set of comprehensive measures rooted in a deeper strategy transcending the jurisdictions of individual ministries and agencies. Even small neglect of or a wrong approach to these issues might cause a negative impact on bilateral relations with the countries concerned or on Japan’s image overseas. Japanese society as a whole thus needs to acknowledge foreigners in Japan as members of society and to sincerely address these issues.

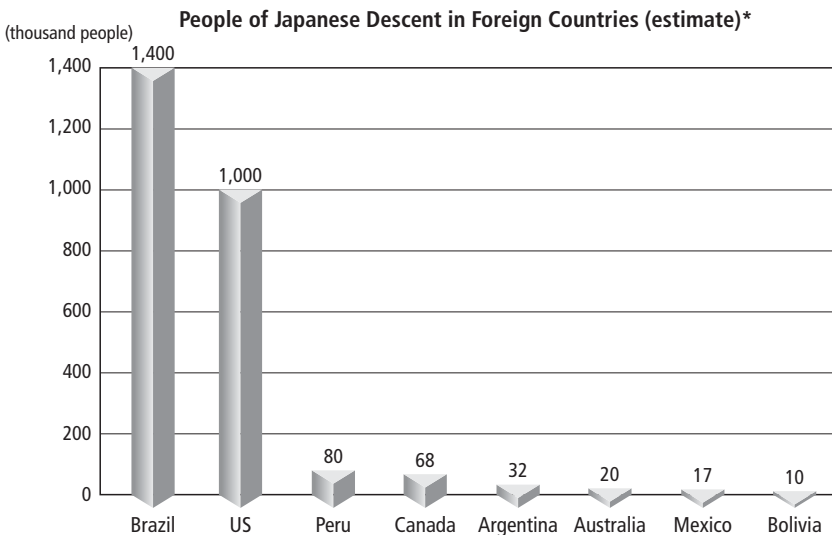
People of Korean origin still account for the largest group of foreigners in Japan, but this number has been

gradually declining, while the next largest numbers of foreigners from China, Brazil, the Philippines, and Peru have shown more or less consistent growth. Although it is necessary to continue discussing issues concerning people of Korean origin, the Council on the Movement of People Across Borders has focused its discussions on the issues of grave concern requiring urgent action faced by people from China, Brazil, the Philippines, and Peru regarding employment, social insurance, and education.² In the section of its report dealing with issues relating to foreigners, the council recommends efforts to tackle issues relating to foreigners residing in Japan and the issue of accepting foreign workers, to expand people-to-people exchange, and to implement measures to combat crime and terrorism and ensure public security. It also recommends that the government establish a comprehensive framework that deals with these issues in a manner that transcends individual ministries and agencies.

(h) Cooperation with Communities of People of Japanese Descent Overseas

The migration of Japanese nationals overseas has a history of over 130 years, and there are especially large numbers of Japanese nationals and people of Japanese descent residing in the Americas, including 1.4 million in Brazil and 1 million in the US.

People of Japanese Descent in Foreign Countries (estimate)



* "People of Japanese Descent" includes both permanent residents who hold Japanese nationality and persons who do not hold Japanese nationality but have Japanese ancestry (first, second, or third generation). The figures are estimates based on relevant statistics and surveys by overseas establishments. The total number of Japanese overseas is estimated to be about 2.6 million.

2. The meetings of the Council on the Movement of People Across Borders were held from October 18, 2002, to October 5, 2004.

They are active in a wide range of areas, including politics, the economy, academia, and culture. Their positive contributions to the economic and social development of the countries where they live are highly respected in their local communities and play an important role in building mutual understanding and developing friendly relations between Japan and the countries in which they live.

Japanese emigrants have generally established themselves in their respective countries, and new generations have been growing up in the local communities. In response to this, MOFA has been making efforts to implement effective policies, taking into consideration the requests from these communities in such areas as welfare issues accompanying the aging of migrants, assistance for those who are unable to help themselves, human resources development for people of Japanese descent, and the utilization of people of Japanese descent in economic and technical cooperation. In particular, MOFA has been providing assistance to further the activities of people of Japanese descent who act as bridges between Japan and the countries in which they live. This

assistance includes programs to accept Japanese descendants as technical trainees for human resources development, as well as to provide training in the Japanese language and to dispatch teachers to Japanese language schools for Japanese language education. MOFA also intends to utilize anniversary events as a springboard to further strengthen collaboration with the relevant countries.

A festival to mark the 50th anniversary of emigration from Okinawa to Bolivia was held in August 2004, participated in by President Carlos Mesa and other leading government officials from Bolivia and Governor Inamine Keiichi of Okinawa Prefecture and other officials from Japan. Moreover, when Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro visited Brazil in September 2004 he held warm, informal talks in Sao Paulo and Brasilia with Japanese migrants and other people of Japanese descent. At the summit meeting between Prime Minister Koizumi and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, it was confirmed that 2008, the centennial year of Japanese emigration to Brazil, should be celebrated in both countries as Japan-Brazil Exchange Year.

C Assistance for Japanese Companies

(a) Overview

Amidst deepening globalization, there is a growing need to improve the business environment for Japanese companies operating overseas, as well as to facilitate trade and investment. Supporting the economic activities of Japanese companies in foreign markets is an important element in strengthening the international competitiveness of Japanese companies and revitalizing the economy. With this in mind, based on the needs of Japanese companies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has been conducting consultations on regulatory reform with the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) and has actively negotiated for concrete improvements on the issues that Japanese companies face. Additionally, as a country seeking to become an “Intellectual Property-based Nation,”¹ Japan considers it necessary to strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights of Japanese companies in foreign markets, including Asian countries, and makes efforts toward this end through bilateral and multilateral consultations. Furthermore, Japan is actively engaged in establishing legal and institutional foundations through the conclusion of investment treaties and agreements, taxation treaties, and social security agreements.

Moreover, MOFA established Contact Points for Support of Japanese Companies who respond to inquiries and requests from individual Japanese companies at all Japanese embassies and consulates-general in November 1999, and they have actively supported private-sector businesses.

(b) Regulatory Reform

Since 2001, the government has been engaged in a wide-ranging exchange of opinions with the US under the Japan-U.S. Regulatory and Competition Policy Initiative² regarding regulations that have been causing difficulties for Japanese companies in conducting business in the US, calling for improvements on the part of the

US government. In particular, since the September 11 terrorist attacks, the US has strengthened immigration controls and security measures for cargo shipments. In the dialogue held during 2004, the fourth year since the launch of the initiative, US-based Japanese companies strongly voiced concerns regarding the suspension of the visa-revalidation system inside the US and the requirement of prior notice of cargoes and foods shipped to the US. Recognizing that these issues directly affect the work and lives of employees of Japanese companies in the US, as well as investment and trade between the US and Japan, the government has been raising these issues and calling on the US government to take action, while providing concrete cases of the difficulties Japanese corporations are facing.

With regard to the EU, since 1994 the Japanese government has been engaged in the Japan-EU Regulatory Reform Dialogue with the aim of promoting two-way trade and investment. Japan and the EU exchange opinions on the basis of proposals for improvement with regard to regulatory reform and the business environment of both parties. This framework is intended to further develop Japan-EU economic relations. In the process of formulating lists of requests to the EU, the government of Japan conducts surveys of Japanese companies operating in Europe and reflects their requests in the lists. Proposals in 2004 to the EU above all included such issues as International Accounting Standard (IAS)³ equivalency, environmental regulations like the proposal for a new system of chemicals control (REACH),⁴ and residence and labor permits and driver licenses, and these subjects were discussed between the two parties.

(c) Intellectual Property Rights Protection

In recent years, counterfeits and pirated goods are distributed particularly within the Asian region, and the damage thereof has been growing. Japanese products are

1. This is a national strategy backed by a vision of aiming to revitalize the Japanese economy and society by clarifying the stance to respect invention and creation and making the creation of intangible assets a cornerstone of industry.

2. Please refer to P.65.

3. Within the EU, consolidated financial statements must be based on the IAS or equivalent standard. Japan has been actively calling on the EU to establish equivalence between Japanese accounting standards and the IAS.

4. REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals): The current regulation proposal of the European Commission would in principle require registration along with safety data for substances manufactured in or imported into the EU. Additionally, registration is necessary for substances in products if certain conditions are met. Regarding the above-mentioned regulation proposal, Japan has been actively requesting the EU to avoid placing an excessive burden on industry and to ensure equal treatment among companies both inside and outside the EU and consistency with relevant international activities.

no exception, and Japanese corporations suffer serious damage, including the loss of potential profits in foreign markets. For this reason, Japan works through diplomatic channels to call on countries where intellectual property rights are being infringed to strengthen protection measures.

In line with the Intellectual Property Strategic Program 2004, which was amended in May 2004 and issued by the Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters chaired by the prime minister, MOFA has promoted the implementation of measures to deal with counterfeits and pirated goods and has been actively working on bilateral and multilateral initiatives and reinforcing countermeasures in countries where the problem originates.

As a concrete example of strengthened measures in countries where such damage is occurring, in order to provide consultations for Japanese companies that are suffering such damages, an Intellectual Property Consultant⁵ is assigned to all of Japan's overseas diplomatic missions, and an Intellectual Property Rights Consultation Manual has been distributed to these missions. MOFA is continuing to strengthen its support apparatus for Japanese corporations in its overseas diplomatic missions.

In the area of bilateral and multilateral efforts, a joint Japan-EU-China seminar was held in Beijing in October 2004 on the topic of design protection and unfair trading. This was based on the Japan-EU Joint Initiative for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Asia that was agreed upon at the Japan-EU summit in June 2004. Participants in the seminar recognized that there were counterfeit and piracy problems in China and agreed that further measures need to be taken in this area. Additionally, under the Japan-U.S. Economic Partnership for Growth, the Information Technology Working Group of the Japan-U.S. Regulatory Reform and Competition Policy Initiative confirmed the importance of Japan-US cooperation to protect intellectual property rights, including the issue of measures against pirated goods, and agreed to enhance concrete cooperative measures.

(d) Legal and Institutional Infrastructure through the Conclusion of Investment Agreements, Taxation Treaties, and Social Security Agreements

Adequately protecting investors and investment assets and creating an environment that encourages freer in-

vestment activities have taken on greater importance for Japan. Japan has already concluded bilateral investment agreements with 13 countries, including pioneering agreements with the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Viet Nam that not only protect investment but also guarantee investment liberalization. In addition Japan has been actively promoting investment liberalization through negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). For example, the Japan-Mexico EPA that was signed last September is designed to promote investment between the two countries. Japan, China, and the ROK are seeking the possibility of establishing a legal framework among the three countries to which the spearhead provisions of the Japan and the ROK Investment Agreement is applied. Regarding efforts to construct multilateral rules on investment, it is disappointing that the issue of trade and investment will not be included in the next round of WTO negotiations. Japan, however, is continuing to actively participate in debates within a variety of frameworks, including the Investment Experts Group (IEG) of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

In the area of taxation treaties, Japan's objective is to eliminate such problems as double taxation. The new Japan-US Tax Treaty, the first major overhaul of the treaty in 30 years, came into effect on March 30, 2004. (The procedures on withholding tax came into effect on July 1, and the procedures on remaining taxes took effect on January 1, 2005.) Under these provisions, subsidiary companies in the other country are exempt from paying taxes on dividends, interest, and licensing fees paid to the parent company in their home country, thus preventing double taxation. Among the European countries, Japan began negotiations with the Netherlands in June 2004 and with the United Kingdom (UK) in November 2004 concerning revisions to the respective taxation treaties.

Additionally, the government is seeking to conclude social security agreements in order to eliminate such problems as double contributions to social security systems and pensions unpaid due to inadequate periods of contributions. The goal is to reduce the burden on Japanese corporations and nationals overseas and to further promote bilateral interchange of personnel and economic exchanges. Social security agreements with the US and the ROK were approved by the National Diet in June 2004, and Japan has agreed in principle on draft agreements with France and Belgium.

5. To provide a clear channel for consultation at Japanese embassies and consulates-general with regard to issues concerning intellectual property rights and to implement concrete and swift responses, an Intellectual Property Consultant is assigned to all of Japan's overseas diplomatic missions.

(e) Contact Points for Support of Japanese Companies in Embassies and Consulates-General

MOFA supports the activities of Japanese companies through consultations and negotiations with other governments. Additionally, in order to respond to each inquiry and request from Japanese companies, MOFA established Contact Points for Support of Japanese Companies in all Japanese embassies and consulates-general in November 1999. The contact points actively

listen to inquiries and requests from Japanese companies and provide support for private-sector business activities. In 2004 the report on the results of such contact points will be compiled, bringing together the results of the support for Japanese companies provided by all of Japan's diplomatic missions. This information will be shared with MOFA headquarters and with all of Japan's embassies and consulates-general. The support provided for the activities of Japanese companies will be advanced further by storing and making use of the expertise gained.