

C Efforts to Tackle Various Global Challenges to Promote Human Security

Overview

The advance of globalization has brought about an age in which people, goods, money, and information move across borders on an unprecedented scale and mutually impact the lives of people. However, there is also a downside of globalization. The international community is confronted with new threats, including HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; environmental pollution; transnational organized crime; and terrorism. Since the end of the Cold War, there have been frequent outbreaks of domestic and regional conflicts which have replaced warfare between states. Not only the flows of refugees, but also those of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

have become serious problems. Another example of a threat is when many people suffer greatly from large-scale natural disasters, which may make it difficult for the disaster-hit country to carry out relief activities alone. Thus, amidst such prevailing trends, in addition to protection by the state and the international community, it is necessary for the international community to put the focus on individuals and endeavor to empower people and societies through cooperation by countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society so that people can lead self-sufficient lives. This is the thinking behind the concept of “human security.”

1 Human Security

Japan promotes diplomacy with an emphasis on the perspective of “human security.” With the aim of establishing the concept of “human security” as a complement to conventional state security, Japan is now working to implement efforts based on the recommendations of the final report of the Commission on Human Security, which was released in May 2003. Japan provides support to the Advisory Board on Human Security (chaired by President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency [JICA] Sadako Ogata), which was established to follow up on the Commission on Human Security report, to disseminate the concept of “human security,” and to propose directions for the Trust Fund for Human Security. The Outcome Document from the World Summit held in September 2005 was the first United Nations (UN) General Assembly document to incorporate the wording “human security.” Hereafter, the concept will be examined and the term’s definition will be discussed at the venue of the UN General Assembly.¹

Since its establishment in the UN Secretariat by contributions from the Japanese government in 1999, the Trust Fund for Human Security has provided funds

for the aid projects of UN-related agencies. To date, Japan has contributed a cumulative total amount of approximately 29 billion yen to this fund. Following the revisions to the fund’s guidelines conducted in January 2005, the mainstream projects include: projects considering a wider range of interconnected regions and areas with the participation of multiple international organizations and NGOs; and projects that intend to integrate humanitarian and development assistance through strengthening people’s capacities to implement seamless assistance in the transitional period from conflict to peace. Japan will cooperate with related UN organizations and continue to proactively support such projects.

The Human Security Network, a network of 13 member countries led by Canada, which has made human security a pillar of its diplomacy, held its Ministerial Meeting in Ottawa, Canada in May, with Japan attending as a special guest. Japan is advancing its cooperative relations with this network and reviewing possibilities such as implementing joint projects through the Trust Fund for Human Security.

In Japan’s policy on Official Development Assistance (ODA), emphasis is placed on human security

1. Other documents from 2005 which incorporate the wording “human security” include the statement from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) (May); the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) session resolution entitled Regional Cooperation for the Protection of Vulnerable People through the Promotion of Economic and Social Aspects of Human Security as a Follow-up to the Shanghai Declaration (May); the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement; and the APEC Economic Leaders’ Statement (November).

in accordance with the ODA Charter, and the Mid-Term Policy on ODA announced in February 2005. In partic-

ular, the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects strongly reflects this concept.

2 Controlling Infectious Diseases

(a) Controlling the Three Major Infectious Diseases

For developing countries, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria (these three will hereafter be referred to collectively as the “three major infectious diseases”), polio, and parasitic diseases are not simple health and medical problems that pose a threat to the lives of individuals but also impediments to development, which affect economic and social activities. With the advancement of globalization, infectious diseases can now easily cross borders into other countries and have become a universal threat to mankind.

In June 2005, to contribute to the achievement of

the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Japan released the Health and Development Initiative (HDI) and announced it will provide assistance of US\$5 billion over a five-year period.² The HDI not only targets the three health-related MDGs,³ but also calls for strengthening the health system, which is the basis for health areas, and takes a comprehensive approach to include areas which have a complementary relationship with health areas.

Furthermore, Japan hosted the High-Level Forum on Health MDGs in Asia and the Pacific in June 2005 in order to stimulate debate over efforts in the Asia-Pacific region. This called attention to Japan’s proactive approach toward its reasoning behind and efforts for

Estimated Number of People (Adults and Children) Infected with HIV/AIDS as of the End of 2005



Source: AIDS epidemic update, December 2005.

2. Japan also announced the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative (IDI) at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000. Through this initiative, Japan provided support to countermeasures for infectious diseases of roughly US\$4.1 billion over a four-year period that lasted until 2004.

3. Reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

assistance in health areas centered on countermeasures for infectious diseases.⁴

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM; hereafter the Global Fund) was established in January 2002, and has approved financial contributions totaling US\$4.9 billion for 131 countries to support measures including the prevention and medical care of the three major infectious diseases in developing countries. As a member of the board since its inception, Japan has played an important role in the management and operation of the Global Fund. Japan is one of the principal donor countries to the fund, having contributed a cumulative total amount of US\$346.19 million, including its share of contributions for 2005 amounting to US\$100 million. At the Commemorative Symposium on the Fifth Anniversary of the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit “East Asian Regional Response to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria” held at the end of June, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pledged to contribute US\$500 million in the coming year to the Global Fund, in solidarity with those people suffering from the three major infectious diseases.

(b) Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza

Since the summer of 2005, because of the spread of avian influenza among birds and an increase of infection in humans mainly in the Asian region, the international community increasingly recognizes the threat of the emergence of new strains of influenza that are transmissible from human to human. As airborne infections,

such new strains of influenza are highly infectious. In addition, because the virus has not yet emerged it is impossible to develop an effective vaccine in advance. Experts have warned that a new influenza pandemic will cause many deaths and significant damage to social and economic activities. Therefore, a response by the international community as a whole has been called for, and many countries and related organizations have taken a variety of initiatives.

In September, the United States (US) launched the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (IPAPI), in which Japan also participates. Response measures have been discussed since October, at international conferences held by relevant international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), as well as countries like Canada and Australia. A total of US\$1.9 billion was pledged in January 2006 at a conference held in Beijing to support developing countries.

Prior to the meeting in Beijing, Japan and the WHO jointly hosted the Japan-WHO Joint Meeting on Early Response to Potential Influenza Pandemic from January 12 to 13, 2006, inviting Asian countries, related international organizations, and major donor countries. At the meeting, concrete recommendations were made detailing the respective measures to be taken by each party regarding steps for early containment in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza. Japan also announced a total of US\$155 million for assistance in developing countries, primarily those in Asia.

3 Sustainable Development and Global Environment Issues

Overview

The advance of globalization is accelerating and enlarging the movement of people, goods, services, and the like across national borders, bringing with it substantial economic benefits. Yet, that does not mean that all countries and people are enjoying these benefits equally. Negative aspects of globalization, such as the widening gap between the rich and poor and increasingly serious global environmental issues are becoming more visible. To escape this state of affairs it is extremely important to realize “sustainable development” through which the international community as a whole (including devel-

oping countries) can enjoy the benefits of globalization in an appropriate manner and in a way that balances the environment and development. Japan is contributing to international rule making related to the global environment and also is displaying initiative in the field of sustainable development through efforts for climate change, the “3R,” and disaster prevention. It is also promoting a powerful environmental diplomacy through the catchword of “*mottainai*.”

(a) International Rule Making

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

4. Similar forums have been held three times in the past.

species continue to be serious problems. Japan has defined these issues as threats to the very existence of mankind and, calling on the international community to cooperate in tackling them, has been promoting the concept of “global sharing.” In formulating international rules related to the global environment, the international community has already been moving from the stage of establishing frameworks to the stage of ensuring their effectiveness. Japan has been making efforts in ensuring effectiveness through the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). At the same time, Japan is proactively engaged in debate over “synergy,” which involves sharing information between conventions and eliminating redundant work, aimed at more efficiency. Furthermore, Japan is making overtures to the international community regarding the importance of issues like the formulation of balanced international rules without bias toward a prescribed set of values and sustainable use, which balances the preservation and use of resources based upon scientific grounds.

(b) Climate Change Issues

Japan has long been giving priority to tackling climate change issues. With the entering into effect of the Kyoto Protocol on February 16, 2005, the international community took its first step toward enhancing efforts for the prevention of global warming. At both the 11th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP11) and the 1st Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP1) held in Montreal, Canada from November 28 to December 9, 2005, Japan mentioned the necessity of constructing an effective framework to address climate change with the participation of every country, calling for solidarity in this among the countries of the world. Furthermore, it was agreed that a “dialogue on long-term cooperative action” would be initiated for future challenges with each of the concluding countries to the convention taking part, including the US and major developing countries. In addition, rules for the operation of the Kyoto Protocol were established through the adoption of the Marrakesh Accord (part of the agreement from COP7). Agreement was also reached regarding specific policies for the further promotion and improvement of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).⁵

In 2005, a variety of international dialogues were conducted regarding the issue of global warming besides the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. The Gleneagles Plan of Action was agreed upon at the Group of Eight (G8) Gleneagles Summit in July. This plan includes specific actions for energy conservation, the use of clean energy, and other measures. Additionally, agreement was reached for efforts like starting a dialogue with countries with significant energy needs, and it was decided that reports on the results of this dialogue will be received at the 2008 G8 Summit scheduled to be held in Japan. Countries with emerging economies were called upon to assume greater responsibility regarding issues like climate change through dialogues with these countries. Based on these results, the ministers from 19 major countries key to the resolution of the climate change issue gathered in London from October 31 to November 1 for the holding of the Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development. At this dialogue, the ministers debated specific policies in order to further advance international cooperation aimed at the realization of a low-carbon society.

Moreover, in July the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate was initiated under the participation of six countries: Japan, the US, Australia, China, India, and the Republic of Korea (ROK). This partnership complements the Kyoto Protocol and aims to respond to environmental pollution, energy security, and the climate change issue through the development and diffusion of clean, efficient technology. The 4th Informal Meeting on Further Actions against Climate Change was held in Tokyo from October 20 to 21 under the joint chairmanship of Japan and Brazil. At this meeting, frank exchanges of opinions and appeals over specific actions for the future reduction of emissions were carried out.

Japan holds to the position that it is important to construct an effective framework that brings about maximum reduction efforts by all major emitting countries, while enabling all countries to take effective mitigation measures in accordance with their own capabilities.⁶ Based on this position, Japan will continue to call for the participation of countries like the US and developing countries, as well as for increased efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

5. A mechanism whereby project participants, such as developed countries that have contributed to emission reduction projects or afforestation projects in developing countries that have produced either a reduction in the amount of emissions or an increase in the amount absorbed, may acquire credits in the form of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). This is provided for in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol.

6. The US has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Moreover, developing countries are not obliged to reduce greenhouse gases through the Kyoto Protocol.

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

March 1994	Entry into Force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
December 1997	Adoption of the Kyoto Protocol (at COP3)
October-November 2001	COP7 (Marrakesh, Morocco) A document based on the Bonn Agreements is adopted. Rules pertaining to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol are adopted, such as the formulation of rules concerning the Kyoto Mechanism.
	August-September 2002 Johannesburg Summit
October-November 2002	COP8 (Delhi, India) The Delhi Ministerial Declaration, which calls for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner and the promotion of the informal exchange of information related to actions for reducing emissions, is adopted.
December 2003	COP9 (Milan, Italy) The remaining details for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, such as rules for implementing CDM through afforestation and reforestation, are decided and preparations for the implementation of the protocol are largely completed.
December 2004	COP10 (Buenos Aires, Argentina) Decisions are made which include holding the Seminar of Governmental Experts toward future action and developing the Five-Year Programme of Work on adaptation.
July 2005	G8 Gleneagles Summit (United Kingdom [UK]) Initiation of the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate (Vientiane, Laos)
November-December 2005	COP11, COP/MOP1 (Montreal, Canada) First Conference of the Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol since its entry into force. The initiation of a dialogue process through all of the countries which are parties to the convention is agreed upon and rules for the implementation of the protocol are established. Specific policies for the further promotion and improvement of the CDM are agreed upon.

(*) COP refers to the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. COP/MOP refers to the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, which is held after it has entered into force.

(c) Japan's Initiative

Japan shows strong initiative in the field of sustainable development. As the result of a proposal by Japan, the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) began in January 2005 and the International Implementation scheme was approved in September. Work for the formulation of an action plan advanced in Japan, leading toward the full implementation of the UNDESD. In the same month, the Dialogue on Environmental Education within the framework of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was held in Tokyo as a continuation from the previous year. The Dialogue received a large number of people from the

public and private sectors of Asian countries, who engaged in active discussion. Japan is taking the lead with respect to strengthening international measures for illegal logging through the Yokohama-based International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)⁷ and the Asia Forest Partnership (AFP).⁸ In addition, through Japan's advocacy, the G8 Gleneagles Summit affirmed the preferential use of timber verified as legal at the time of government procurement when certain prescribed conditions have been fulfilled.

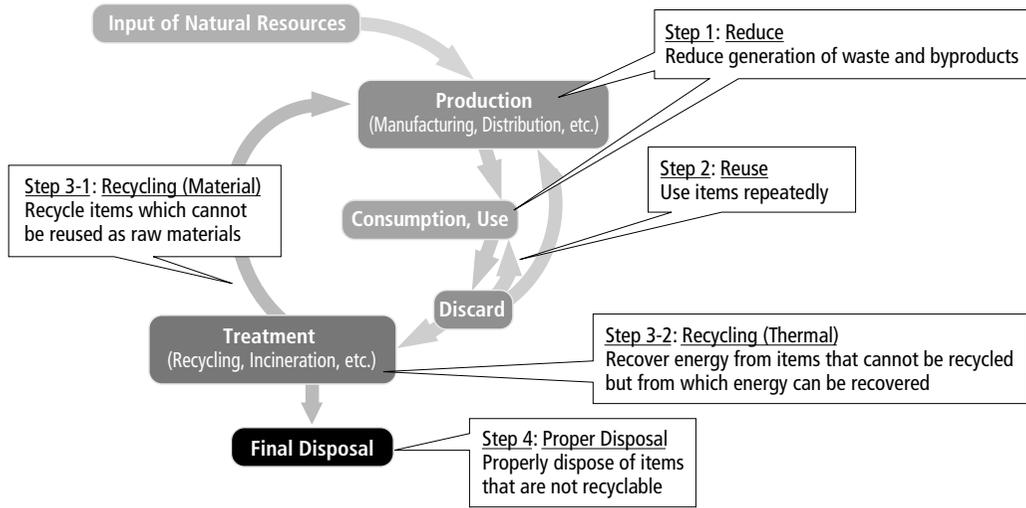
(d) 3R

At the G8 Sea Island Summit in 2004, Prime Minister Koizumi stressed the importance of global environ-

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

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

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



mental issues and proposed the 3R Initiative.⁹ The G8 Action Plan on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development: “3R” Action Plan and Progress on Implementation was also adopted at this meeting.

On the basis of the 3R Action Plan, the 3R Ministerial Conference (hosted by Minister of the Environment Yuriko Koike) was held in April 2005 and the 3R Initiative was officially launched. It was acknowledged at the G8 Gleneagles Summit that the launch of this initiative was an important step toward encouraging a more efficient use of resources and materials which increases economic competitiveness whilst decreasing environmental impacts.

(e) Disaster Reduction

The promotion of building societies and countries that are resilient to disasters is essential to achieve sustainable development that strikes a balance between the environment and development. From this perspective, Japan promotes the enhancement of efforts by the international community for disaster reduction. The major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean disaster occurred right before the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe from January 18 to 22, 2005, which marked the 10th

year since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. As a result, a high level of interest from both within Japan and abroad centered on this conference, and more than 4,000 people from 168 countries participated. At the meeting, the disaster reduction activities promoted by the UN were reviewed and the Hyogo Framework for Action was adopted to serve as new guidelines on reduction for the next ten years. The Hyogo Declaration, which states the spirit of this framework, was also adopted. In addition, focused debate took place over a tsunami early warning system, and impressions of Japan’s contributions in the field of disaster prevention were strongly bolstered.¹⁰

Japan provides support to various UN organizations and other groups for the worldwide implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as for the creation of a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean.

(f) Environmental Assistance for Iraq

Japan also extends environmental cooperation through international organizations. Since 2004, one of Japan’s support measures for the reconstruction of Iraq has been to provide training for environmental experts in Iraq through the United Nations Environment Programme

9. The 3R Initiative encourages the more efficient use of resources and materials and aims for the international promotion of the creation of a Sound Material-Cycle Society through the 3R for waste: reduce, reuse, and recycle (refer to the figure, Concept of the 3R in a Sound Material-Cycle Society).

10. At the same meeting, a special session related to the disaster in the Indian Ocean was held based on the proposal announced by Prime Minister Koizumi on January 6, 2005 at the ASEAN-sponsored emergency leaders meeting (Jakarta). References to the Hyogo Framework for Action are made in the Outcome Document of the World Summit in September 2005.

(UNEP).¹¹ Japan also assisted in the preservation and management of marshlands in southern Iraq through the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC).¹²

(g) Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

In 1994, Japan, together with the ROK, China, and Russia, established the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). The objective of this plan is to preserve the environment in the Northwest Pacific region as one of the Regional Seas Programmes proposed by the UNEP. Furthermore, in November 2004, regional coordinating units were jointly established in both Toyama, Japan and Busan, ROK, to function as the secretariat for NOWPAP, which was previously in the UNEP Headquarters.

In recent years the condition of locations like the coasts of the Sea of Japan have been deteriorating due to marine litter washing up on the shores. To respond to this issue, at the 10th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) of NOWPAP, held in Toyama in November 2005, it was

agreed to promote projects such as the organizing of workshops, the development of monitoring programmes, and the implementation of clean-up campaigns in cooperation with local governments and NGOs. In addition, the development of oil and natural gas is progressing in the waters off the eastern part of Sakhalin Island. Owing to this, it was agreed that the geographical coverage to which the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan applies concerning the eventuality of a large-scale oil spill accident would be expanded as far as waters that include offshore Sakhalin and the Sea of Okhotsk.

(h) The Antarctic

Japan constructed a base in the Antarctic area¹³ in 1957, and has been conducting scientific surveys since then. Moreover, amidst a flourish of activities including tourism, adventure travel, and private sector research, environmental protection is being advanced through the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty,¹⁴ a treaty that promotes environmental conservation in the Antarctic area.

4

Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drugs

(a) Transnational Organized Crime

Transnational organized crime has grown more serious today as a result of deepened globalization, advances in information and communication technology, and the greater movement of people. In order to respond appropriately to this crime, international partnership and cooperation are becoming increasingly important, and vigorous actions are being taken through such international frameworks as the UN, the G8, and the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF).

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols are designed to create an international legal framework to promote cooperation for the prevention of and the fight against transnational organized crime. Japan is currently moving forward with developing domestic legislation to conclude this convention.

Regarding human trafficking, the Government of Japan, through coordination among relevant ministries and agencies, eagerly takes a number of measures toward the prevention and eradication of human trafficking and

11. The UNEP engages in international cooperation activities in the environmental field, such as the protection of the ozone layer and disposal of harmful waste. Its headquarters is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

12. The IETC, an internal organization of the UNEP, carries out activities such as organizing training courses and seminars, offering consultation services on environmental problems, and disseminating the experience and knowledge of Japanese local governments with outstanding records in the environmental field to developing regions. Its offices are located in Osaka City and Kusatsu City in Shiga Prefecture.

13. The Antarctic area refers to the "area south of 60° South Latitude" set down by the Antarctic Treaty (completed in 1959 and entered into effect in 1961). The number of countries that have concluded this treaty as of 2005 is 45. Japan was an original signatory country to this treaty and concluded it in 1960. As a consulting country, Japan has played a proactive role through aspects like international cooperation, prohibiting military use, moratoriums on territorial claims, and environmental conservation and protecting biological resources in order to maintain peace and ensure freedom for the scientific surveys conducted there.

14. The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was created in October 1991 and entered into effect in January 1998 with the purpose of comprehensively protecting the environment and ecosystems of the Antarctic. Within the main body of the protocol are provisions for the prohibition of mineral resource activities, measures for inspection, and dispute settlement procedures, among others. The schedule to the protocol details arbitration procedures, with provisions for environmental impact assessment found in Annex I, the conservation of Antarctic flora and fauna in Annex II, waste disposal and management in Annex III, the prevention of marine pollution in Annex IV, and Antarctic Specially Protected Areas in Annex V.

protection of the victims of trafficking based on the Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹⁵ a comprehensive policy formulated in December 2004.

As a G8 framework, the Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime, known as the Lyon Group,¹⁶ discussed issues such as drugs, human trafficking and illegal immigration, corruption, and countermeasures for cybercrime and Japan participated actively in it. The results of the discussions were summarized as a Chairman's Summary at the Meeting of G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers held in June.

Meanwhile, the Convention on Cybercrime was adopted in 2001 for international cooperation regarding cybercrime, which has grown serious with the rapid development and diffusion of information and communication technology. Japan is currently developing domestic legislation to conclude this convention.

The FATF is an intergovernmental body centered on the member states of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), aimed at promoting international measures and cooperation to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The FATF issued the Forty Recommendations and the Nine Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing as international standards concerning money laundering countermeasures and monitors their implementation. It has been carrying out its third round of mutual evaluations since 2005. In addition, at the plenary meeting held in October it was decided that the designation that had been accorded to Nauru as an uncooperative country/region in the Asia-Pacific region should be

rescinded. Japan has been a chair of a review group to study efforts of the non-cooperative countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific region. In this way, Japan makes positive contributions as a core member of the FATF.

(b) Illicit Drugs

At the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March, Japan explained its success stories regarding domestic countermeasures against illicit drugs. In addition, it proposed a draft resolution that was adopted without a vote. This resolution promotes international cooperation against the abuse of substances not controlled by the law, an issue that is also growing more serious in Japan. In the election for the membership of this commission carried out in April, Japan was elected as a member country, gaining the largest number of votes within the Asian group. It will serve as a member until the end of 2009.

Furthermore, in order to support countermeasures against illicit drugs in Southeast Asia, Japan also encouraged active debate at the meetings of the Mini-Dublin Group in Southeast Asia and China.¹⁷

Japan also continues to provide support for UN projects to combat illicit drugs through the UN and contributed approximately US\$2.5 million to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in FY2005. UNODC implemented with this financial contribution a project to strengthen law enforcement control in Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and China (approximately US\$210,000)¹⁸ and a project for improving data and information systems for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in the Southeast Asian region (US\$200,000),¹⁹ among others.

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

16. The decision to establish the G8 Senior Experts Group on Transnational Organized Crime was made at the Group of Seven (G7) Halifax Summit in 1995, held in order to address countermeasures for transnational organized crime. The name Lyon Group comes from the fact that the group submitted its first report at the 1996 Lyon Summit. On the dark side of the advance of globalization, transnational organized crime (that is, crime conducted across national borders in an organized manner, such as the smuggling of firearms, trafficking in persons, and high-tech crime) is on the rise. The Lyon Group has been actively engaged in discussions to resolve technical and legal issues in order to tackle these problems.

17. Launched in Dublin in June 1990 by the major developed countries with the goal of deepening mutual understanding and coordinating policy related to illicit drug-related assistance policies. Participating members are Japan, the US, Canada, Australia, Norway, 25 countries in the European Union (EU), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Plenary sessions are held twice a year in Brussels. Moreover, it was proposed to hold similar consultations at the embassies of Dublin Group member countries in drug producing countries, and ad hoc meetings called Mini-Dublin Group meetings are held in approximately 70 of the major drug producing countries.

18. This project establishes Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) at critical sections along Southeast Asian border regions and conducts training in modern investigative methods for the officers in charge of law enforcement at these BLOs. The project also includes creating a cooperative structure between the BLOs and strengthening control of the trafficking of illicit drugs in border regions.

19. In order to respond to the issue of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), which are spreading throughout Southeast Asia, this project will standardize data collection systems related to prevention and control of ATS abuse, thereby facilitating information sharing between the relevant countries.

5 Human Rights

Overview

Sixty years have passed since the establishment of the UN, which embraces the respect for human rights as one of its fundamental purposes, and various mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights currently exist in the international community. Yet serious violations of human rights that affect the lives and freedom of people are still present throughout every part of the world. Thus, the human rights issue continues to be a major challenge that should be tackled by the international community, including Japan.

Japan's three basic principles on human rights issues are as follows: (1) human rights should be respected regardless of culture, traditions, political and economic systems, or stage of development, and the protection of such rights is the most basic responsibility of each country; (2) human rights are universal values and a legitimate concern of the international community that should not be perceived as an interference with internal affairs; and (3) all rights, including civil rights and social rights, are indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, and it is necessary to protect and promote them all. Bearing in mind these three principles, Japan contributes to improve the human rights situation throughout the world, including the development and promotion of international human rights norms, through such international fora as the UN Commission on Human Rights and bilateral dialogues.

In addition, the establishment of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) was agreed upon in the Outcome Document of the World Summit in September, and human rights were reaffirmed as one of the primary pillars of the UN. As such, the movement toward mainstreaming human rights has been strengthened. Japan intends to continue strengthening efforts in the field of international human rights, and appointed Japanese

Ambassador to Norway and Iceland Fumiko Saiga as its newly established ambassador in charge of human rights in December.

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

At the 61st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, which was held from March to April, the political and confrontational tone of the meeting was again striking. Approximately 60% of the roughly 110 resolutions and decisions were adopted by consensus, whereas about 40% were submitted to a vote. Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Itsunori Onodera delivered a statement at the meeting calling for an early resolution of the problem of the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea. As in 2004, a Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)²⁰ was adopted. Japan was one of the co-sponsors of the resolution, which includes measures for the prompt resolution of the abduction issue. In addition, the Resolution on the Situation of human rights in Cambodia,²¹ which Japan submitted, as it has on an annual basis, received a large number of co-sponsors and was adopted without a vote.

At the 60th session of the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly, held in New York City from October to November, roughly one-third of the draft resolutions were submitted to a vote. In these circumstances, Japan tried to play an intermediary role between regions and countries with conflicting opinions while also actively voicing its own position. In particular, the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK),²² which includes references to the abduction issue, was submitted for the first time to the General Assembly by the European Union (EU), and Japan worked actively for its adoption

20. The Resolution on the Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) expressed deep concern about the widespread and grave violations of human rights in North Korea and strongly urged North Korea to ratify human rights instruments; cooperate and develop dialogue with the UN system, and resolve, clearly, transparently, and urgently all the unresolved questions relating to the abduction of foreigners, including the immediate return of the abductees; decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur who reports on the situation of human rights in North Korea for a further year; and requests that in the event that no improvement is observed in the situation of human rights in North Korea, other UN agencies, particularly the General Assembly, take up this question. However, entrance of the special rapporteur into North Korea still has not been realized.

21. In the resolution on Cambodia, the UN Commission on Human Rights welcomed the agreement on the establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers for the tribunal of the Khmer Rouge and the fact that a number of states have made commitments to provide assistance to the Extraordinary Chambers, urged Cambodia to take all necessary measures for the early establishment of the Chambers, expressed its concern over the fact that some human rights violations continue, and urged for efforts to continue to improve human rights.

as a co-sponsor. As a result, the resolution was adopted for the first time at the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly in November, and by a plenary session of the General Assembly in December.

(b) Bilateral Dialogue on Human Rights

Fostering mutual understanding through bilateral dialogue is also important in advancing the protection and promotion of human rights. From this perspective, Japan conducted a dialogue on human rights with Cambodia in March and exchanged opinions over efforts for improving the human rights situation in the country. In addition, as concrete cooperation in order to improve the human rights situation in Iran, in January Japan conducted training in Japan aimed at Iranian members of the legal profession. For Myanmar, as a follow-up to the human rights seminar on the theme of the “Treatment of Prisoners,” which began in 2004, Japan invited the director general of the Myanmar Correctional Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs to Japan in October and held inspection tours of prison facilities and lectures related to issues of prisoner treatment and others.

(c) Submission of Government Reports Based on Human Rights Treaties

Together with the activities of intergovernmental human rights fora, the examination of the reports submitted by states parties on their implementation of the treaties by the committees established based on the six major human rights treaties²³ plays an important role as a mechanism to protect and promote human rights in the international community. In December, the Government of Japan submitted its first report on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

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

The OHCHR was established in 1993 as the department of the UN Secretariat in charge of human rights. It carries out activities for its duties such as promoting universal enjoyment of human rights and facilitating international cooperation related to human rights. The strengthening of human rights areas is incorporated into the UN reform proposals, which are currently being debated, and personnel and budgetary increases are scheduled to take place soon for the capacity building of the OHCHR, which plays a central role in these areas. Japan contributed approximately 17.8 million yen to the OHCHR in FY2005.

(e) Children and Women

Japan has historically provided support, such as through contributions to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), to protect and promote the rights of children who have been placed in difficult situations like disasters and conflicts. In January, Japan concluded the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography²⁴ and makes efforts to disseminate it together with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (concluded in August 2004).

Furthermore, to ensure the promotion of gender equality, the active participation of women, and the fair distribution of benefits between men and women in all stages of the development process, from policy planning

22. The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) expressed serious concerns on the systematic, widespread, and serious Human Rights violations in North Korea, which include unresolved questions relating to the abduction of foreigners in the form of enforced disappearances, torture, the imposition of the death penalty for political reasons, limitations on freedom of expression, and violations of the human rights of women, in addition to the country’s lack of cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The resolution also requested that North Korea completely fulfill the measures set out in previous UN Commission on Human Rights resolutions, such as ensuring unimpeded access to all parts of North Korea to humanitarian organizations, guaranteeing that all human rights and basic freedoms are fully respected, and cooperating fully with the special rapporteur on the human rights situation in North Korea.

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

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

to implementation, Japan provides support in this field both bilaterally and through contributions to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in order to raise the status of women. In addition, violence against women and children in such forms as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, violence in conflicts, and traditional harmful practices like female genital mutilation continues to be a serious human rights problem, and urgent efforts are needed to eliminate violence.

The 49th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (Beijing + 10 high-level meeting) was held from February 28 to March 11 at UN Headquarters as a follow-up meeting to the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing Conference). At this meeting, the delegation of the Japanese government reported on policies aiming for the formation of a gender-equal society, which Japan has been working on since the Beijing Conference, and their results. The delegation also made reference to progress in and international cooperation for measures to combat human trafficking (it announced the Initiative on Gender and Development [GAD]) and expressed Japan's strong determination to promote further efforts.

(f) Persons with Disabilities

Japan has been making efforts to complete the negotiations that began in 2002 for a Comprehensive and

Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities at an as early as possible date and in a desirable manner in order to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. In 2005, Japan participated in the 5th (January to February 2005) and 6th (August 2005) sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Convention, and actively took part in the discussions at the UN for the establishment of the convention while maintaining close cooperation with non-governmental organizations for persons with disabilities.

(g) International Humanitarian Law

In February, Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions,²⁵ the major international humanitarian laws related to the protection of victims of conflict, were entered into effect in Japan. In order to promote understanding over its significance, the Symposium on the International Humanitarian Law was held in Tokyo in March through the joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Japanese Red Cross Society. In addition, the MOFA organized the International Law Moot Court Competition "Asia Cup 2005," which was the third such competition since 2003, on international human rights and humanitarian law in Tokyo in August.

6 Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance is becoming increasingly necessary and important in various parts of the world, due to conflicts with background of ethnic and religious strife and natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.²⁶ The existence of a vulnerable segment of the population that includes refugees and IDPs is a humanitarian issue, which could also impact the peace and stability of not only the relevant regions, but also the international community as a whole.

From the perspective of human security, Japan has placed humanitarian assistance as one of the important pillars of its international contributions and has provided active support to the operations of international humanitarian organizations such as the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). When the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean occurred, Japan contributed a total of US\$250 million in January through 15 international organizations like UNICEF and the WFP, making it a forerunner among the international community. When a large-scale earthquake hit Pakistan, Japan provided a total of US\$8 million through international organizations and contributed to prompt support for those afflicted on fronts like medical care and improved sanitation; the provision of water, food, and tents; and with transportation and other efforts.

25. Japan acceded in August 2004.

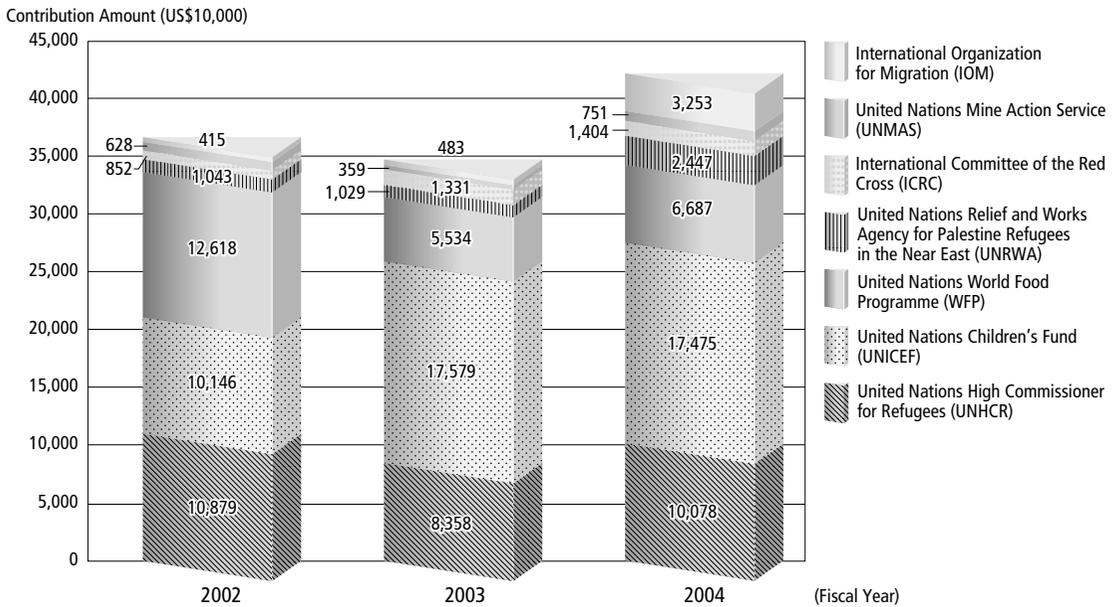
26. The number of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are the focus of protection and support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) comes to about 23.48 million people (based on 2005 statistics).

Furthermore, in light of the current high level of support needed, Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Aso announced additional contributions totaling US\$20 million through international organizations during a visit to Pakistan in January 2006. Japan realized support with a visible face at these afflicted regions through close tripartite coordination among international organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF, Japan Disaster Relief Teams and Japanese NGOs. Moreover, the Japanese staff members at international humanitarian organizations who are taking an active role under severe working conditions,

such as in regions afflicted by natural disasters or post-conflict areas, are playing a part in Japan's personnel contributions.

Japan has also been making active efforts toward resolving the issue of African refugees as part of its goal of "consolidation of peace" in Africa. As support for Sudan, Japan dispatched a governmental survey mission in June that conducted a survey of needs and similar activities. Following this, in October Japan contributed an overall total of roughly US\$32.1 million in humanitarian assistance through international organizations for the massive number of refugees who returned.

The State of Japan's Contributions to Major International Humanitarian Assistance Organizations



Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tanigawa on an inspection tour of the area hit by the large-scale earthquake in Pakistan (October, Batagram District, Pakistan)