

Japanese Nationals Active in the International Community and Diplomatic Roles

Overview

In today's international community, where mutually dependent relations are growing stronger with the advance of globalization, not only is the number of Japanese nationals active in various capacities in the international community increasing, but also each Japanese national is taking a greater interest in the international situation and the role Japan plays in the international community.

Japanese nationals are active in various regions of the world and are playing important roles in a variety of positions, whether it be in a private-sector company, as an international civil servant, as a member of a non-governmental organization (NGO), as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) or a Senior Volunteer (SV), or as a member of one of the various types of exchange groups. The Government of Japan recognizes

that it is more important than ever before for foreign policy to be developed in a multilayered manner that is not the exclusive preserve of government, but utilizes the knowledge of various strata of society in the course of planning and designing its policy. The government, therefore, believes that there is a need to give support to the activities of these people and organizations and to increase coordination with them.

In addition, as the activities of Japanese nationals and companies spread more widely around the world, it is important from the perspective of ensuring Japan's national interests that the government provides assistance through the requisite consular service for Japanese nationals overseas, as well as ensuring that Japanese nationals and companies can live and engage in their activities overseas in safety. The government is actively enhancing such activities.

A Japanese Nationals and Companies Active in the International Community

(a) Japanese Staff Active in International Organizations

In the international community, in addition to terrorism and conflicts that threaten the political and security structure, the rapid advance of globalization has exacerbated a host of global-scale issues, including environmental destruction, violation of human rights, poverty, and infectious diseases, responses to which are of pressing importance. Given this situation, the role played by international organizations is becoming more significant than ever, and the missions and responsibilities of the international civil servants who work at those international organizations are also of growing importance.

In order to augment the number of Japanese staff in the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations, Japan has been making efforts to find competitive candidates and to urge international organizations to take on and promote Japanese staff. Specifically, Japan has been working to increase the number of Japanese staff by making use of the Associate Expert (AE), Junior

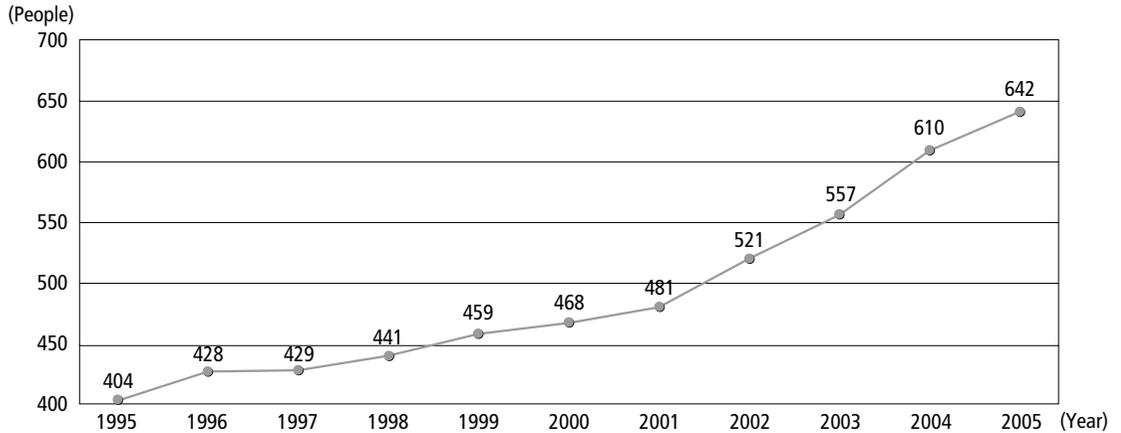
Professional Officer (JPO),¹ and other programs for young people, and by accepting recruitment missions from international organizations. As a result of these efforts, the number of Japanese staff has been increasing steadily over the last ten years and in 2005 stood at 642 persons (refer to the graph, Number of Japanese Staff in UN-Related International Organizations (Professional level and above)). Among these people are those who have been elected to top management positions in international organizations and those who have made a career of working in such organizations. There are also those, from young newcomers to management personnel, who are active in a variety of fields in countries around the world,² including in areas of conflict such as those around Iraq and Afghanistan.

In order to increase as much as possible the number of Japanese personnel active in international organizations, the government intends to continue to seek out outstanding human resources and call on international organizations to that end.

1. Under these programs, people wishing 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 program is to give people work experience to help them on their way to becoming full employees of international organizations. As of January 2006, 110 people were on dispatch.

2. Japanese staff who have been elected by member states to head international organizations include Koichiro Matsuura, director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and Utsumi Yoshio, secretary-general of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). In addition, 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.

Number of Japanese Staff in UN-Related International Organizations (Professional level and above)



Senior-Level Officials at Major International Organizations

(As of January 2006, in alphabetical order)

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)
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	Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) 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	Director of the Global Malaria Programme, World Health Organization (WHO)
Kuroda Haruhiko	President, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
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)
Mochida Shigeru	Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Mochizuki Yumiko	Director, Tobacco Free Initiative, World Health Organization (WHO)
Murakami Kenji	Director, Division of Operations C, Department of Safeguards, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
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)
Okuda Chieko	Director, Investment Management 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, Special Advisor to the Executive Director of UNICEF
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)
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
Yuge Akiko	Director, Tokyo Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

(b) Activities of Private-Sector Companies

In recent years, the activities of Japanese nationals and Japanese companies overseas have become increasingly vigorous and visible. In particular, the entry of Japanese companies in overseas markets has resulted in a sharp upswing in the presence of Japanese companies, especially in Asia. Given this expanded presence, MOFA established Contact Points for Support of Japanese Companies in all Japanese embassies and consulates-general, which are actively engaged in providing assistance for the business activities of Japanese companies that have entered markets overseas, through efforts such as making requests to overseas governments and providing relevant information. Furthermore, not only the number of Japanese business people stationed at overseas branches of Japanese companies, but also the number of locally hired Japanese nationals, thus transcending international boundaries, is increasing. In the academic area also, there are currently approximately 160,000 students, researchers, or teachers engaged in study, research, or work overseas.³ In this way, expectations are continuing to increase concerning the contribution that Japanese nationals are making in a variety of fields on the international stage.

(c) Activities of Japanese NGOs Overview

International cooperation activities of NGOs are important, since they are capable of providing fine-tuned assistance that meets the diverse needs of developing countries and regions, as well as promptly and flexibly implementing emergency humanitarian assistance activities. These activities are also important in that they give Japan a visible presence. In recent years, 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, disarmament and non-proliferation, and measures to counter international organized crime. Their role in the international community is thus expected to become increasingly significant.

The government, recognizing the increasing presence and role of NGOs, stipulated strengthened coordination with NGOs in the 2003 revision to the ODA Charter. In addition, in the new ODA mid-term policy formulated in 2005, coordination and collaboration with NGOs is cited on numerous occasions.

In order to bolster the activities of Japanese NGOs, the government is providing financial support for NGO activities overseas, and is implementing dialogue and cooperation with NGOs and a variety of cooperative efforts designed to strengthen the base for Japanese NGOs.

(1) The Field of Development Assistance

a) Activities of Japanese NGOs

Japanese NGOs are active throughout the world. The major activities of Japanese NGOs for which government funding was provided in 2005 are detailed below.

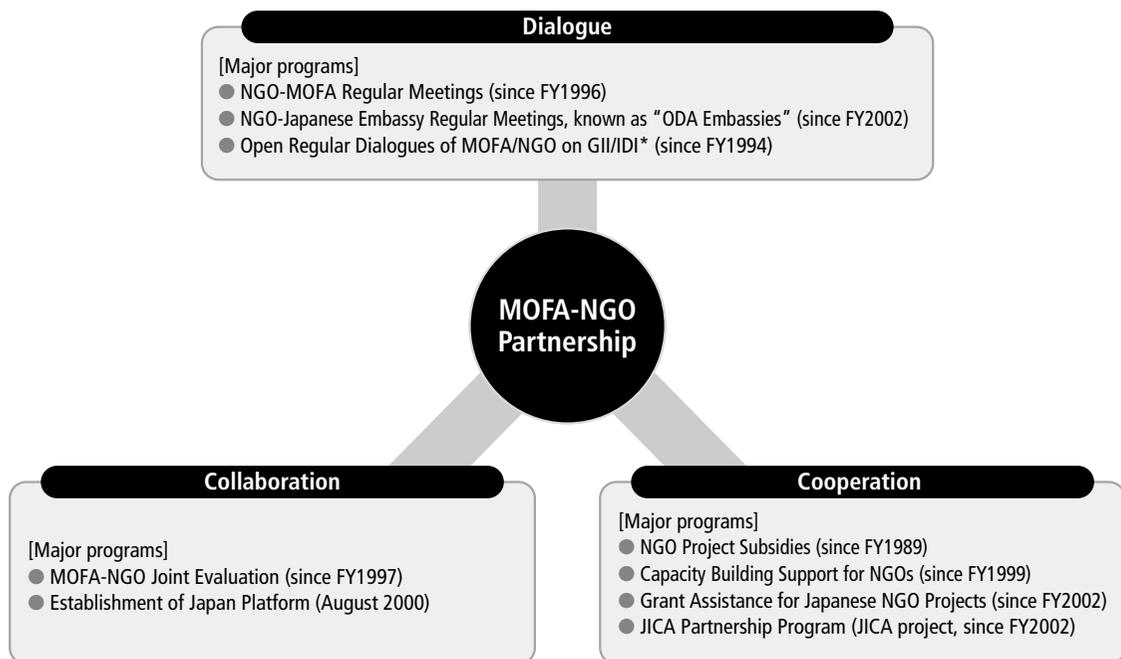
- i) In terms of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects (through which government funds are provided for the overseas activities of Japanese NGOs), a total of approximately 1.23 billion yen was provided in 70 projects in 29 countries. The main countries for implementation included: Cambodia (eight projects), Viet Nam (six projects), Sri Lanka (six projects), Afghanistan (six projects), and Kenya (five projects). Projects included school rebuilding projects, medical cooperation and mother and child healthcare, assistance for disaster victims, agricultural development, and clearing of mines and unexploded ordnances.
- ii) Through the Japan Platform (JPF) (through which the government, private sector, and NGOs cooperate with the aim of enabling Japanese NGOs to swiftly launch and implement emergency humanitarian assistance activities in times of emergency [see the chart, Partnership between MOFA and NGOs]), in 2005 assistance was implemented through 50 government-funded projects (2.109 billion yen), and 17 private-sector-funded projects (220 million yen). This assistance was targeted at a number of cases, including assistance to victims of the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, assistance to refugees in Darfur, assistance for returning refugees to Liberia, assistance to Iraq, and assistance to the victims of the large-scale earthquake in Pakistan.

b) Government Cooperation for NGO Activities

In terms of the structure of financial cooperation provided for NGO activities, in addition to the NGO Project Subsidy and Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects, in 2002 the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO

3. Figures according to 2004 MOFA data (as of October 1, 2004).

Partnership between MOFA and NGOs



*GII: Global Issues Initiative on Population and AIDS.

IDI: Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative. The Open Regular Dialogues of MOFA/NGO on GII were 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.

Projects was newly established, and was followed in 2003 with the establishment of the JICA Partnership Program. Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects is a system through which project funding is provided to Japanese NGOs that are implementing economic or social development activities in developing countries or regions. The budget for the system was 2 billion yen at the time of its establishment in 2002, which increased to 2.85 billion yen in FY2005. Through consultations with NGOs, MOFA seeks to improve the funding structure based on proposals received from NGOs, and also stipulates as an obligatory requirement that all projects receiving funding undergo an external audit to ensure that funds are being used appropriately. The JICA Partnership Program is implemented between Japanese NGOs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which collaborate on technical transfer projects that have a direct effect on improving the lives of local residents in developing countries. At the time of the program's establishment, its initial budget for FY2003 was 1.09 billion yen, and in FY2005 this increased to 1.94 billion yen.

With regard to emergency humanitarian assistance activities in time of disasters, etc., since FY2001 the government has been contributing funds through the

framework of the JPF (which will be described later in detail) to ensure swift and effective assistance activities by Japanese NGOs. These funds are provided to assistance projects in addition to funds provided from the private sector.

c) Government Cooperation for NGO Capacity Building Efforts

For many Japanese NGOs, efforts are required to enhance their degree of specialization and organizational and management capacity in order to better function in providing international cooperation. With this in mind, MOFA, JICA, and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID) are implementing a variety of programs through government funding.

In 2005, MOFA convened NGO Study Groups on three themes: disaster rehabilitation, assistance for disabled persons, and multidisciplinary approaches to assistance in the field of health. In addition, 17 persons were designated as NGO Advisors (commissioned by the government as advisors to the public and NGOs), who reply to all types of inquiries, and 11 persons were dispatched to 11 NGO organizations as NGO

Researchers (dispatched to NGOs in order to enhance expertise at those NGOs). In addition, jointly with overseas NGOs, MOFA convened a Crisis Management Seminar as Applied to NGO Activities.

d) Dialogue and Cooperation between NGOs and Government

Starting in FY2002, MOFA has reorganized the NGO-MOFA Regular Meetings, which had been held four times a year since 1996, into a plenary meeting held once a year, and two subcommittees—one on ODA policy and the other on promoting collaboration—each of which meets three times a year. As such, MOFA has been advancing dialogue and cooperation. In 2005, the plenary meeting was held in May, with the subcommittee on ODA policy meeting in February, July, and December, and the subcommittee on NGO-MOFA collaboration meeting in March, July, and October. The subcommittee on ODA policy discussed aid policy, and the subcommittee on NGO-MOFA collaboration discussed how to make the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects easier to use.

In developing countries, where many Japanese NGOs are active, since FY2002, a system known as “ODA Embassies” has been in operation, whereby embassy officials, JICA, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and NGO personnel engage in consultations on how to make ODA more effective and efficient. The “ODA Embassy” system has been utilized in a total of 12 countries to date, including Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Kenya.

In addition, in November 2002 MOFA created the post of ambassador for civil society. 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.⁴

e) For the Swift and Effective Implementation of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance: Japan Platform (JPF)

The JPF is a system established in August 2000 through cooperation between NGOs, government, and economic

circles that aims to enable Japanese NGOs to swiftly launch and effectively implement emergency humanitarian assistance activities to victims of large-scale natural disasters and victims of conflict, utilizing public and private-sector funding. Currently, 23 NGOs are participating in the JPF. The government has contributed funds to the JPF since FY2001, and up to the end of 2005 a total of approximately 4.84 billion yen had been provided in government funding for a cumulative total of 103 projects.

At the time of the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra at the end of 2004 and at the time of the large-scale earthquake in Pakistan in 2005, the JPF swiftly implemented emergency humanitarian assistance activities. In December, “Camp Japan” was set up in Tandali on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan to provide assistance through the harsh winter to the victims of the earthquake. This project was realized through cooperation among the JPF Secretariat and its collaborating NGOs, as well as international organizations and the central and local governments in Pakistan, and has been nominated for the best practice model of NGO-led cooperation in disaster regions among international organizations and governments of the affected country.

(2) Other Fields

In the field of human rights, many NGOs are engaged in activities to disseminate and promote the six major human rights treaties, and the government holds dialogues as well as cooperates closely with NGOs for preparing government reports that are regularly submitted to the UN human rights treaty bodies.⁵

In relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution and child pornography, has become increasingly serious in recent years as a consequence of globalization and the information society. The role of NGOs in this field is significant, and the government is cooperating in NGO activities.

From February to March, the 49th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, named Beijing+10, was convened at UN Headquarters in New York, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. Three NGO representatives participated in the

4. 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 MOFA), 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919. Telephone: +81-3-3580-3311 (extension 4873), +81-3-5501-8046 (direct).

5. UN human rights treaties bodies are comprised of experts and monitor the implementation of the six major human rights treaties in contracting states.

delegation of the Japanese government as advisors. They contributed to the discussion, as well as engaged actively as intermediaries between the governments and NGOs.

Negotiations on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (provisional name) are currently continuing at the UN Ad Hoc Committee. A disabled representative has been participating in the Japanese delegation as an advisor at every meeting. Japanese NGOs involved in disability issues have received much praise for their notable activities at the global level, including hosting seminars relating to the convention, as well as taking part in the Ad Hoc Committee.

In the field of international organized crime, the government exchanges opinions with NGOs on the issue of trafficking in persons. It established the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee at the Cabinet Secretariat, and has implemented a variety of measures, including the adoption of the Comprehensive National Action Plan of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons. This policy process is set up in such a way as to provide for regular consultations with NGOs, which play an important role in the process by engaging in frank exchanges of opinions concerning the current situation and protection measures. In addition, in February 2006, MOFA hosted the International Symposium on Trafficking in Persons (convened jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM)) and the National Women's Education Center (NWECC) under the cooperation of NGOs.

In the field of the environment, from the perspective of providing opportunities for frank exchanges of views and information on environmental education, Japan has been holding the annual Dialogue on Environmental Education since 2004 as a prime mover project⁶ within the framework of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD). Participants in this dialogue include government officials, international organizations, NGOs, researchers, and private companies. The second dialogue was held in Tokyo and Yokohama in September, in which about 60 people from 21 countries took part. With the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in mind, the participants engaged in vigorous discussions on the theme of "Towards Green Production and Green Life." Along with reports on good

practices in each country, measures of companies which are main actors of production as well as measures taken by local communities and households were presented. Participants had a fruitful discussion exchanging their respective viewpoints. In terms of trade, the government is aware that in order to bring the WTO Doha Round negotiations to a successful conclusion, the understanding and cooperation of private-sector organizations is crucial. In November, MOFA convened a briefing session for private-sector organizations, etc., concerning the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled to be held in Hong Kong in December. Furthermore, during the WTO Ministerial Conference, briefings and exchanges of opinions took place as required with NGOs. In this way, as in the previous year, the government has been working in cooperation with NGOs.

In the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the government has also enhanced collaboration with NGOs. In May, at the time of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the government worked to ensure that the opinions of NGOs were appropriately reflected in the outcome of the conference, including Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Katsuyuki Kawai's attending a session for an exchange of opinions with NGOs. In the area of conventional weapons, such as small arms and light weapons and anti-personnel landmines, Japan has been providing financial assistance through Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects to Japanese NGOs which are engaged in mine action in countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Angola.

In terms of UN reform, the government emphasizes the interrelationship between peace, development, and respect for human rights. In August, MOFA and NGOs co-hosted the Public Forum on United Nations Reform, for the 2005 World Summit of the United Nations scheduled for the following month. At the Public Forum, participants from NGOs, international organizations, and MOFA held multi-sectoral policy dialogues on what vision the Japanese government should have in promoting UN reform. Frank and constructive exchange of views on UN reform with the civil society represented a milestone for the promotion of further MOFA-NGO cooperation. It would be beneficial to continue to hold such fora in the future.

6. 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.

New Steps by Japanese NGOs: Pakistan Earthquake Disaster Relief Project "Camp Japan"

"The opportunity to live in this camp was a blessing from God."

Such words of gratitude have frequently been heard from the earthquake victims of Pakistan.

"Camp Japan," a comprehensive aid project, was established in the vicinity of Muzaffarabad, Kashmir, in response to the large-scale earthquake on October 8, 2005. The project's goal was to minimize casualties and suffering during a harsh post-disaster winter, temperatures well below freezing even during daylight hours. Activities included distributing food and other necessities, constructing and securing shelter, and providing medical and educational aid to almost 40,000 victims.

In addition, "Camp Japan" is regarded as a model for similar partnerships: it is the first project conducted under the managerial auspices of the Japan Platform (JPF), the agency acting as a central activity coordinator for the Pakistani government, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other international organizations.

In more concrete terms, in addition to the establishment of a "tent-town" providing lodging for up to 2,000 people, mobile teams composed of medical, construction, and food distribution professionals were created, providing on-site assistance to those in need.



Children passing the winter in Camp Japan (Photo: JPF)

Eight groups from the JPF undertook management duties, and utilizing past experience in various fields, complemented both each other and the many local and international NGOs providing aid.



Local base of Camp Japan (Source: JPF)

Facilities at the camp site were established for long-term use: straw floors covered with thick plastic tarp for warmth, water supply and drainage facilities, latrines and washrooms, and nighttime lighting to ensure security.

The process of accepting residents began on December 28. Given that over 70% of residents were women and children, special considerations were taken, and without halt to food provision activities, the JPF provided aid from medical care to general education.

In the next phase, the organization intends to launch recovery assistance activities in surrounding areas, responding to local post-disaster needs via large-scale transport of goods donated by Japan's public and private sector. Our goals: stating clearly that "Japanese society also bears responsibility for your recovery," and helping Pakistan recover its abundant spirit, even if just a moment sooner.

JPF's *raison d'être* is simple: becoming "a public institution making effective use of Japan's abundant resources." As such, it will henceforth strive to find new approaches when conducting aid projects and activities, aiming to become a Japan-born international aid institution of which the world can be proud.

Writer: Assistant secretary general of Japan Platform,
Mitsuhiro Idehara
(Temporarily transferred from Hiroshima Prefecture)

(d) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior 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 Volunteers. These are programs that dispatch Japanese nationals who wish to dedicate their skills and knowledge to economic and social development in developing countries abroad while working together with the local people. The year 2005 was a milestone year for JOCV. October marked the 40th anniversary of the initiation of the JOCV program, and a ceremony to celebrate this milestone was held in the presence of Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress.

The JOCV program, for people aged from 20 to 39, has dispatched a total of 27,910 people to 80 countries since its establishment in 1965, when 26 people were dispatched to the Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Laos. The Senior Volunteer program is for people aged from 40 to 69, and has dispatched 2,472 people to 55 countries since its launch in 1990. As of the end of December 2005, 2,656 JOCVs are currently on dispatch to 74 countries, and 70 Senior Volunteers are serving in

51 countries.

The volunteers' activities cover a wide range of fields, including animal husbandry, computer technology, nursing, and science and mathematics education. As of the end of December 2005, the activities of the JOCVs covers 135 occupational categories in seven fields, and those of the Senior Volunteers cover 61 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 HIV/AIDS control as a new category for cooperation.

In addition to making a contribution to developing countries, the JOCVs and the Senior 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 the community level. The unique activities of these volunteers have been highly evaluated in both Japan and the countries to which they were dispatched.

B Steady Advances in Developing an Environment for Safe, Secure Travel and Residence Overseas for Japanese Nationals

1

Supporting Japanese Nationals Living or Otherwise Engaged in Activities Overseas and Improvement of Consular Service

Overview

The number of Japanese nationals living overseas or engaged in activities overseas continues to increase each year. In 2005, 17.40 million (tentative figure) Japanese citizens traveled overseas, and approximately 1.01 million Japanese, in total, were long-term residents abroad, including permanent residents (October 1, 2005). In this situation the importance of consular service is rising, given that consular service plays an important role as a contact point for Japanese nationals overseas. In addition to making efforts to improve consular service for Japanese nationals, MOFA is enhancing its actions to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals overseas and increase their benefit.

In particular, from the perspective of advancing provisions to ensure that Japanese travelers and Japanese overseas nationals enjoy safe a journey and life, MOFA has been tackling: (1) to realign the emergency counter structure for large-scale overseas terrorist attacks or natural disasters referring to the experience of the response to the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December

2004; (2) to enhance the reliability of overseas education and health; and (3) to introduce IC Passports in order to ensure smooth travel for Japanese citizens.

(a) Improving Consular Service

The Consular Service Headquarters¹ at MOFA has held seven meetings so far and summarized the opinions from viewpoints of focusing measures and courtesies required for consular service, and shown the guidelines for improving the quality of consular service which as a result would meet the needs of Japanese citizens to the overseas establishments.

In addition, the Advisors on Consular Affairs² system has been introduced and has been favorably received as a measure for improving consular service. The advisors are assigned to overseas establishments, where they utilize their knowledge gained through their experiences in the private sector to respond sincerely to various questions or problems from overseas Japanese nationals. They also provide helpful suggestions for improving consular service. This system has produced steady results.

1. Following the launch of the Consular Affairs Bureau in August 2004, this Headquarters was established as an organization to promote ministry-wide efforts to improve consular service.

2. A system introduced in December 2003 whereby senior citizens from the private sector with a wealth of experience and knowledge about local conditions aid in the provision of consular service in overseas establishments.

Japanese in Paris and the Advisors on Consular Affairs

"The beautiful city of Paris." These are the words spoken by everyone who knows Paris, a city which has drawn people from all over the world since ancient times. In the bustling corners of the city of Paris, there are Japanese people who are quietly coming to the end of their lives.

Recently, I had cause to attend the funeral of a middle-aged Japanese woman at a cemetery in Paris. At the quiet funeral, attended by her husband and a few other French nationals, I was the only Japanese present. Whatever the circumstances, I could not help but pray for this woman, who had come to the end of her life so far away from her mother country of Japan, a place very different from her native land.

As Japanese society ages, so does the Japanese community in Paris, France. As an advisor on consular affairs, I have been involved with the elderly people's group "Maronie no Kai." Among other things, I have an opportunity to hear them speak about the history of Japanese people in Paris in the old days. With the motto of "enriching old age," we discuss such unavoidable issues as medical care, nursing care, pensions, and social security, as well as funerals and burial places. There are those who will not return to Japan but end their days in France. They are not necessarily requesting our assistance; nevertheless, they do depend intensely upon the existence of the embassy. The face of the Japan of the future, in which the problem of how to deal with aging will not be dealt with through superficial gestures, can be seen in Paris, too.

Giving Japanese residents of Paris advice as an advisor on consular affairs provides me with a glimpse into the way of life of Japanese in Paris and the experience of witnessing people at a turning point in their lives.

Paris is a global crossroads. People from many different countries live here, bringing their respective cultures and diverse values with them. There are those Japanese people who have struggled with the language and with culture shock, encountering difficulties in achieving their objectives in coming to Paris, and as a result, they have come to distrust human beings or to dislike Paris. Some become worn out living overseas; they are depressed, their lives are hard, and they worry. The role of the elderly like me is to encourage and hearten the younger generations who forge the future of Japan. There are joys of life that outweigh its hardships and pleasures that override its sorrows. In life, merely attempting to try to do something has, in itself, value; it is not just a waste of time. One cannot just give up in life whenever one meets some obstacle. I would like to say to them, "Do not panic, do not rush, and do not give up." If one can keep holding on to the will to stick with it, luck will surely return. Such a

belief, a consistent view toward the activities of the Advisors on Consular Affairs, has been learned through a life stationed abroad as a businessman, and from my senior mentors who are the experts of life.

While the embassy can give the impression of tending to keep itself at a distance, there are those who apply to the consular section as a last resort. Couples in international marriages on the verge of breaking up come here. I witness the swing between breaking up and staying together, between joy and sorrow, between laughter and cry. The embassy is involved in every aspect of people's lives because its work means that it is present at many of their various personal crossroads. This is all the more reason for giving advice seriously and to reach out to and deal with people in a genuine manner, never forgetting that I myself was on the other side of the desk until recently because there have been periods when the embassy was said to be hard to reach.

I think the contribution the Advisors on Consular Affairs make to society can be summed up as protecting and assisting Japanese people who encounter problems abroad and supporting them in their lives in the local area. I hope that I can make a contribution to society, however small it may be, as an individual supporting the people's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the embassy's private diplomacy, and consular activities. At the same time, we also exchange information and share problems with our colleagues, the Advisors on Consular Affairs at other embassies and consulates-general. Everyday, we still learn and are taught many things along the path to becoming satisfactory advisors. We hope strongly that the system for Advisors on Consular Affairs will not end as a temporary service, but continue into the future.

Writer: Shigeyuki Urabe, Advisor on Consular Affairs,
Embassy of Japan in France



New Year's party of the Maronie no Kai (Enriching Old Age in France) (writer on right-hand edge)

(b) Assistance for Living Overseas

(1) Support for Japanese Schools and Supplementary Education Schools

The major concerns for Japanese nationals living abroad are the status of public security, education, and medical services. Based on this, as part of environmental development for improving the welfare of Japanese nationals overseas, MOFA carries out assistance for Japanese schools (85 schools) and supplementary education schools (185 schools), in particular the safety of Japanese schools, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

(2) Dispatch of Medical Teams and Provision of Medical Information on Pandemic Influenza, etc.

In order to provide health consultations to Japanese nationals residing in developing countries where medical situations are generally poor, MOFA has been dispatching medical teams with the cooperation of domestic medical organizations since 1972. Such medical teams were dispatched to 31 countries in 2005.

In addition, MOFA has also actively been providing medical information, such as regarding the spread of infectious diseases overseas, through the issue of travel information based on information from governments and organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

In particular, there is an increasing danger that the highly pathogenic avian influenza known as H5N1, which has spread from Asia as far as Europe, could mutate to an infectious form of influenza that is transmittable from person to person. In November, the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Action Plan of the Japanese government was formulated and the Headquarter for Pandemic Influenza Counter-Measures was established at MOFA. From the perspective of international cooperation and support to Japanese nationals overseas, MOFA is cooperating with the relevant government ministries and agencies and with external organizations, including the WHO and the International Medical Center of Japan.

(3) Responding to Diversifying Administrative Needs

Overseas atomic bomb survivors (those who have been issued an Atomic Bomb Survivor's Certificate) wishing to apply for a health management allowance and other benefits or funeral assistance based on the Law Concerning the Relief the Atomic Bomb Survivors had

in the past been obliged to submit this application in Japan, but from November 30, it became possible to submit an application via an overseas establishment.

Mirroring the situation in Japan, the issue of an aging population is expected to affect Japanese living overseas, particularly in large cities in developed countries, becoming a serious issue as time goes on. Against this background, the Consulate-General in New York, which has the largest population of Japanese residents under its jurisdiction, has taken initiative in setting up a forum for exchange of opinions among experts knowledgeable on the local Japanese community and issues for elderly nursing care, and other pertinent topics. At the embassy in France, Advisors on Consular Affairs have been cooperating with a local group of Japanese residents called the *maronie no kai*, actively engaging in providing consultation services for elderly Japanese nationals.

Concerning the issue of social security contributions, bilateral agreements on social security went into effect with the Republic of Korea (ROK) (April) and the United States (US) (October), and similar agreements with Belgium and France were signed and ratified by the Diet in July. An agreement has almost been finalized with Canada, and negotiations with Australia and the Netherlands are ongoing.

With regard to the procedures for the acquisition of driver's licenses in foreign countries, in response to a request from the Japanese government, the government of the Czech Republic issued the legal amendment enabling Japanese nationals to convert their Japanese driving license to a Czech driving license.

(c) Overseas Voting

Following a partial revision of the Public Offices Election Law in 1998, a system for overseas voting was established. Following the House of Representatives general election in June 2000, the House of Representatives general election held in September was the fifth such election in which overseas voters have participated. Approximately 21,300 overseas voters cast their votes.

In response to a ruling by the Supreme Court of Japan on September 14 that the current practice of limiting overseas voting to the proportional representation segment of elections for the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors was unconstitutional, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and MOFA have been stepping up work to expand the scope of overseas voting to include single seat constituencies in elections for the House of Representatives and House of Councillors.

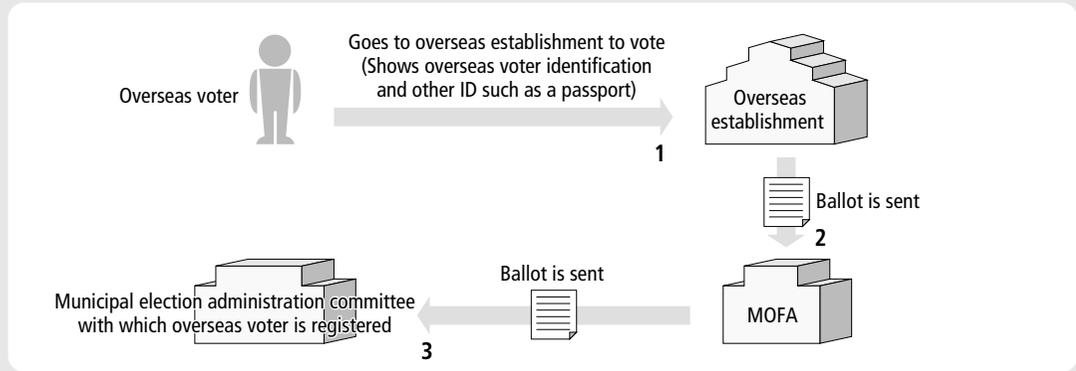
In order to vote overseas, it is necessary to be regis-

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.)

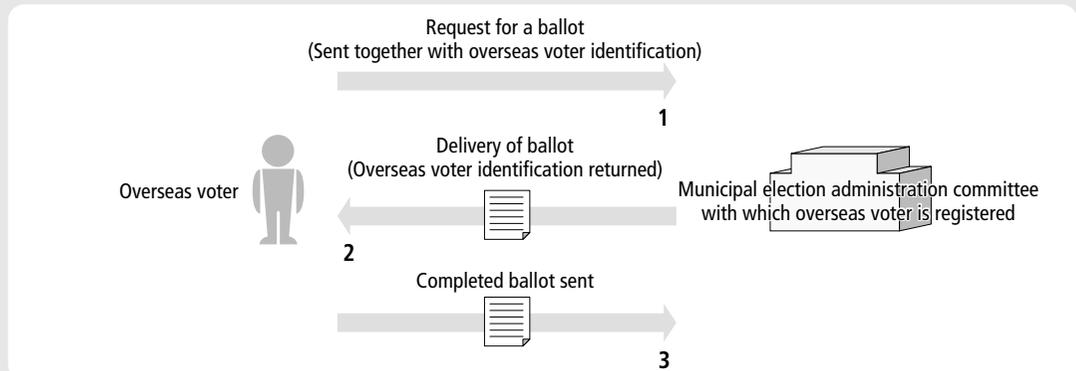
Note: Voters can vote by choosing either overseas establishment voting or postal voting.



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).

tered 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.

(d) IC Passports (e-passports)

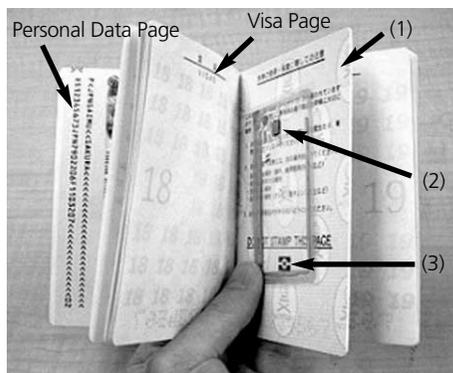
In order to strengthen deterrence against the illicit use of passports, such as forged or altered passports and imper-

sonations, MOFA has decided to introduce passports with IC chips which store biometric information, including a digital image of the passport photograph. MOFA has been advancing development and preparation of passports and related equipment that comply with international standards for technical specifications established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). From February to March 2005, practical trials were conducted through cooperation

among the Information Technology (IT) Policy Office of the Cabinet Secretariat, the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. In order to prepare the required legislation for the introduction of IC Passports, Passport Act was partially amended during the 162nd regular session of the Diet (promulgated on June 10, 2005), and went into effect on March 20, 2006.

TOPIC

What is the IC Passport (e-Passport)?



Q: What does the Japanese IC Passport consist of?

A: As shown in the above picture, the IC page is located in the center of the passport booklet. The IC page consists of (1) a plastic card, (2) an IC chip, and (3) a communication antenna. However, (2) and (3) are embedded in a plastic card, and are not usually visible. The technical specifications of the IC Passport comply with the international standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Q: What information is recorded in the IC Passport?

A: The items recorded in the IC chip are those already printed on the personal data page of the passport: (i) a facial image, (ii) name, (iii) date of birth, (iv) passport number, (v) country to issue the passport, and so on.

Q: What is the benefit of the introduction of the IC Passport?

A: The IC Passport will provide strengthened deterrence against acts of counterfeit or forgery such as attaching a photograph of another person or falsifying personal information on the passport since

these acts can be readily identified through the verification of the information on the passport's data page against the authentic information recorded in the IC chip. Moreover, with the gradual deployment of electronic devices at border control points in many countries, which will verify the face of the person presenting the passport against the facial image stored within the IC chip, the IC Passport is also expected to prove effective in uncovering the illicit use of passports by impersonators pretending to be the authentic passport holder.

Q: How much is the IC Passport fee?

A: Passport application fees were increased by ¥1,000 to cover the cost of the IC chip. Currently a 10-year IC Passport fee is ¥16,000 and a five-year IC Passport fee is ¥11,000.

Q: Is it necessary to exchange the passport that one currently holds for an IC Passport?

A: No, there is no need to do that. Even after the IC Passport has been introduced, the previously issued passport continues to be valid until its expiry date.

2 Increasing Diversity of Crises and Strengthening of Safety Measures

The increasing number of Japanese nationals traveling and residing overseas has led to an increase in the variety of crises encountered by Japanese nationals overseas, both in qualitative and quantitative terms, including the type and the scale of the crises. In 2005 there was a marked increase in large-scale natural disasters overseas, an increasing tendency for terrorists to attack “soft targets,” as witnessed in the use of explosive devices, as well as a worsening in the perpetration of petty crimes. Based on these circumstances, in order that Japanese nationals overseas may avoid facing a crisis, MOFA is making efforts to raise awareness through detailed publicity and announcements, and is also working to develop and strengthen the structure to provide relief in times when Japanese nationals become involved in crisis situations.

(a) Increasing Diversity of Crises

The major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean that claimed the lives of over 220,000 people at the end of 2004 resulted in the deaths of 40 Japanese nationals, with two people still remaining unaccounted for (as of December 2005). 2005 was also a year in which damage from large-scale natural disasters surpassed all previous predictions, as witnessed in the hurricane damage wrought on the southern United States and the earthquake that struck Pakistan. These disasters broke down power and communications networks, paralyzing urban functions over a long period and making access to the disaster regions difficult. Much time and effort was therefore required to confirm the safety of individuals who were residing in these areas and who had possibly been in the disaster regions.

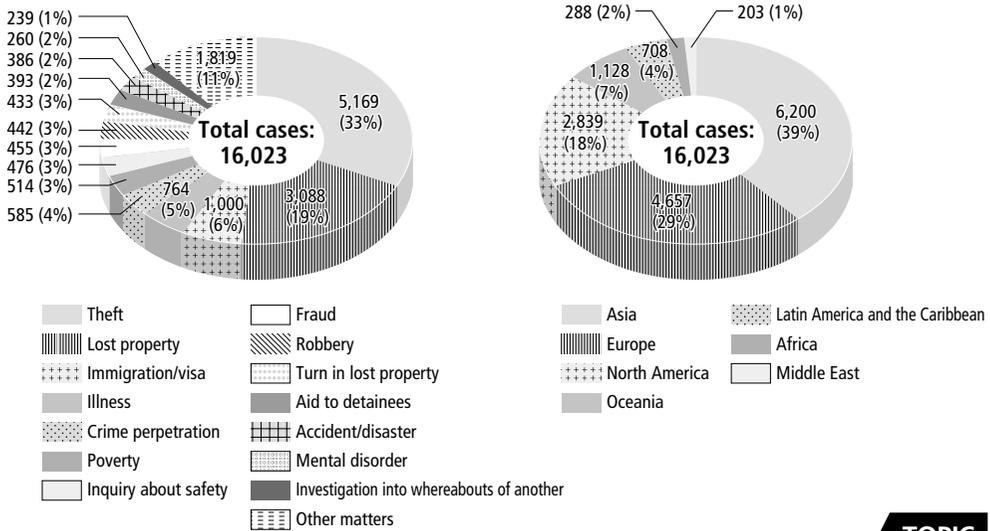
The threat from terrorism or abduction overseas

remained as large as ever, with the following cases involving Japanese nationals occurring in 2005 alone: an attack on a Japanese vessel in the Straits of Malacca (March), an armed attack on a Japanese national in Iraq (May), the series of terrorist bombings in London (July), and the series of bombings in Bali (October). Terrorist attacks in 2005 were characterized by suicide bombings using explosive devices that could easily be carried about and duplicated in a multiple attack, which occurred largely in public spaces such as hotels, restaurants, and subways.

Petty crimes or accidents in 2005 saw accidents involving leisure and sporting activities, in marine, mountain, or other outdoor pursuits increase as Japanese nationals' holiday styles become increasingly diverse. In addition, there was a marked number of incidents or accidents involving Japanese nationals largely as a result of their lack of risk awareness; for example, cases of murder of overseas travelers who had entered danger zone without having made appropriate preparations. There was also a general worsening in the type of crimes involving Japanese nationals overseas, including cases of fraudulent gambling-related violence in which victims were threatened with knives. Another characteristic of 2005 was the increase in the number of cases where Japanese nationals have been punished and detained for a lack of recognition concerning local laws in cases involving the possession and transportation of drugs, child prostitution, importation of child pornography, smuggling of foreign cultural assets, and the smuggling of rare animals, among others.

In addition, the danger of the emergence of a new strain of influenza was another issue that required new responses.

Cases of Support for Japanese Nationals Overseas in 2004 by Incident and Region



TOPIC

Foreign Minister's Commendation: Achievement of the Phuket Japanese Association

On the morning of December 26, 2004, a devastating tsunami created by a major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, instantly swallowed up entire cities along the coast of the Indian Ocean and caused the massive loss of more than 200,000 precious lives. The disaster resulted in the death of Japanese nationals with a large number more being injured in the area of Phuket, Thailand, where many foreigners enjoy their holidays.

Amidst the calamity, the Phuket Japanese Association began immediately to provide the victims with assistance. In addition to supplying cooked food to those forced to live as evacuees with only the barest of essentials, the Association provided many other kinds of assistance such as showing people how to inquire after

safety, introducing accommodations, and providing transportation to the airport. The Government of Japan, centering on the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, also dispatched many personnel to the disaster area to provide assistance. The Association helped such government activities through, for example, providing office space to be used as the local assistance office of the Japanese government (provisional advice office).

In July 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation to the Phuket Japanese Association in recognition of its great contribution in assisting Japanese victims amidst the unprecedented disaster, and paid tribute to their achievement.



Memorial for victims of Tsunami in Thailand built by the Phuket Japanese Association on December 26, 2005

(b) Efforts to Strengthen Safety Measures for Japanese Overseas

In order to evade the diversifying types of crises overseas, it is important that each and every citizen possess a mindset to protect oneself by anticipating risks, and devise safety measures in response to such risks. MOFA provides detailed information, based on analysis of the situation on the ground, concerning overseas risks which Japanese nationals could possibly encounter and how to address such risks. In addition, MOFA is making efforts to develop and strengthen a relief structure to respond flexibly at times when Japanese nationals have become involved in crisis of any kind.

For example, travel information is being issued through the MOFA Overseas Safety Homepage (<http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp>, Japanese only), the MOFA overseas safety information fax service (Fax no.: 0570-023300 (input an information code after listening to guidance)), e-mails providing information updates, and travel operators, in order to provide a picture of areas in which care should be taken when traveling or residing overseas and basic safety measures as well as information concerning the occurrence of important incidents or accidents overseas. In addition, the “Kaigai-Anzen

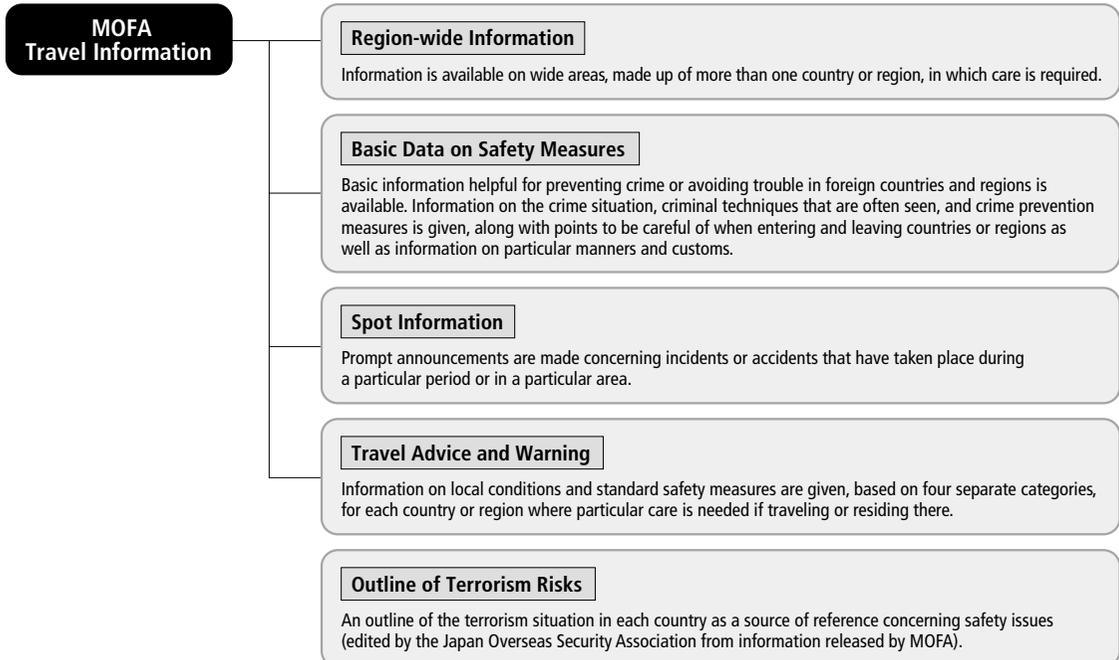
TORANOMAKI: Manual for Avoiding Problems When Traveling Overseas” is a pamphlet that provides comprehensive advice on safety measures. There are a number of other brochures being compiled or distributed that respond to needs and concerns among the people of Japan on a variety of possible scenarios, including measures against terrorist bombings, measures to counter threats, and measures in response to kidnapping.

Preparations are underway for the occurrence of a large-scale emergency situation overseas, including utilization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance disaster information emergency notification systems and systems to confirm the safety of Japanese nationals, and acquisition of required personnel and equipment for expedient response. In addition, efforts are being made to strengthen the overall relief structure, such as organizing emergency response teams that incorporate external experts to address mental care needs.

(c) Considering Safety Measures Together with the People of Japan

In order to ensure the enhanced safety and security of Japanese nationals traveling and residing overseas, while it is only natural that the government constructs precise and detailed measures that respond to the needs and

Travel Information System and Outline



Note: The Travel Information System was revised in June 2003, incorporating four elements of travel information under the general category “Travel Information.” (Previously only “Travel Advice and Warning” and “Spot Information” had been included under the general category “Travel Information.”)

concerns of the people, it is equally vital that each individual citizen takes responsible actions. In addition to providing consultation services on overseas travel at the Overseas Safety Information Center, MOFA is continuing its effort to examine the issue of overseas safety together with the people of Japan through such channels as overseas safety campaigns targeting youths and various lectures. In these occasions, exchanges of opinions are held in a dialogue format, in which people are encouraged to consider risks overseas as something more relevant to them, uphold consciousness to protect themselves by their own, and consider the best course for

devising satisfactory safety measures.

In Japan, MOFA holds regular meetings of the Council for Public-Private Cooperation for Overseas Safety, a forum for exchanging opinions with business and private-sector groups, as well as regular overseas meetings of the Security Consultation and Liaison Committee, a forum held with the participation of Japanese expatriates. In addition, Crisis Management Seminars are held in major cities in Japan and overseas. In this way information is shared and public-private cooperation concerning safety measures overseas is being promoted.

TOPIC

**For Enjoyable and Safe Overseas Travel and Stays:
"Kaigai-Anzen TORANOMAKI"**

"Do those of you planning to travel or stay overseas know all there is to know about safety measures?"

Beginning with the words above, the "Kaigai-Anzen TORANOMAKI: Manual for avoiding problems when traveling overseas" introduces readers to specific scams that have been used in incidents and accidents in which Japanese nationals have actually been involved, what the trends are in such incidents and accidents, and what kind of steps should be taken to avoid such problems.

In recent years, the number of Japanese nationals traveling overseas has reached over 17 million a year, with a considerable variety of purposes and destinations. But as the world becomes more accessible, the number of Japanese nationals being involved in incidents, accidents, natural disasters and terrorist acts is unfortunately also increasing.

To ensure that your valuable overseas travel experiences are enjoyable and memorable, it is becoming

more and more important to gather all of the possible information about your destination and adopt safety measures with the mindset of "protecting oneself, by oneself."

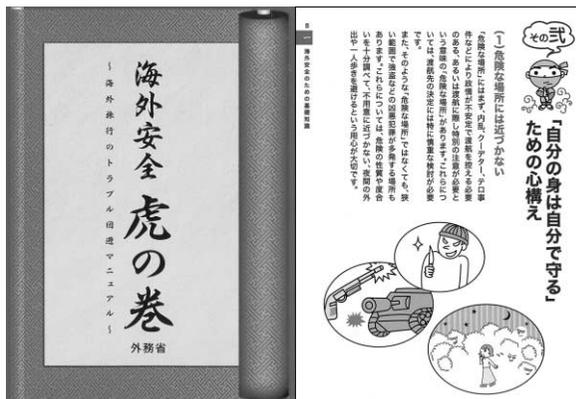
Both before and during your travel overseas, please read the manual carefully and use it for your safety at your destination.

The Kaigai-Anzen TORANOMAKI can be obtained at passport centers in each prefecture and municipality and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Overseas Safety Information Center. Alternatively, you can find it on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Overseas Safety Homepage."

http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/pamph/pamph_01.html (Japanese only)



The character "Kaigai-Anzen TORANOMAKI"



3 Cooperation with Communities of People of Japanese Descent Overseas

The migration of Japanese nationals overseas has a history of over 130 years. There are an estimated 2.6 million overseas Japanese and their descendants, with especially large numbers residing in the Americas, particularly in Brazil and the US. They are energetic in various fields, including politics, economy, academics, and culture. Their positive contributions to the economic and social developments of the countries are highly respected in their local communities and play an important role in building mutual understanding and developing amicable relations between Japan and the countries.

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, considering 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 Japanese descendants, and the recruitment of them in economic and technical cooperation. In particular, MOFA has been providing assistance to the activi-

ties of Japanese descendants who are expected to act as bridges between Japan and the countries in which they live. This assistance includes programs to accept them as technical trainees for human resources development, as well as to provide training in the Japanese language and to dispatch volunteer teachers to Japanese language schools in local communities.

In May, when President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil visited Japan and had the summit meeting with Prime Minister Koizumi, they reaffirmed that the year 2008, which marks the 100th anniversary of Japanese emigration to Brazil, should be celebrated as Japan-Brazil Exchange Year. In August Minister of Foreign Affairs Armando Loaiza Mariaca of Bolivia visited Japan to attend the grand ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of Japanese emigration to San Juan in Bolivia. In September, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Keishiro Fukushima visited Brazil to attend the 50th anniversary ceremony of the Cotia youth immigration in São Roque, São Paulo State. In October, a ceremony was held in the city of Cali, Colombia to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Japanese emigration to Colombia.

C Assistance for Japanese Companies

(a) Communicating the Japanese Brand to Overseas through Public-Private Partnerships (Overview)

With the advancement of globalization, there is a growing need to communicate the “Japan Brand” to overseas, based on the trust, high prestige, and praise that Japanese individuals and companies have nurtured through their activities overseas as well as to improve the business environment for the Japanese companies there. In recent years, widening the appeal of the Japanese Brand through public-private partnerships has been a mounting necessity. For MOFA, 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.¹ To this end, MOFA has been listening to a broad range of opinions concerning the issues that Japanese companies face, and based on these has been conducting dialogue and consultations on regulatory reform with the United States (US) and the European Union (EU), in addition to making concrete requests for improvement to the countries or regions in question. Additionally, as a country seeking to become an “intellectual property-based nation,” Japan considers it necessary to strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights of Japanese companies in foreign markets, and is making efforts toward this end through bilateral and multilateral consultations and negotiations, calling on other countries to cooperate in measures to strengthen protection for intellectual property rights and take countermeasures against counterfeit goods and pirated copies. Furthermore, Japan is engaged in establishing legal and institutional foundations through the conclusion of investment treaties and agreements, taxation treaties, and social security agreements.

(b) Contact Points for Support of Japanese Companies

MOFA is supporting the activities of Japanese companies by using intergovernmental consultations and negotiations to improve the business environment. In addition

to these efforts, from 1999 Contact Points for Support of Japanese Companies have been created at all overseas establishments in order to respond individually to corporate inquiries and provide consultation services, thereby assisting private-sector business activities. In 2005, efforts were also made to further enhance assistance to Japanese companies, through sharing information between MOFA and its overseas establishments on assistance to Japanese companies, thereby utilizing accumulated knowledge on such matters.

(c) Intellectual Property Rights Protection

In recent years, counterfeits and pirated goods have become widely distributed, particularly in the Asian region, and the damage caused by these has been growing. Since Japanese products are no exception to counterfeiting and piracy, Japanese companies have been seriously affected by this damage including the loss of potential profits in foreign markets. For this reason, Japan is working through diplomatic channels to call on other countries to cooperate in protecting intellectual property rights and instigating measures to combat counterfeits and pirated goods.

In line with the Intellectual Property Strategic Program 2005, which was amended in June 2005 and issued by the Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters (chaired by the prime minister), MOFA is engaged in measures against counterfeits and pirated goods. Among these efforts, MOFA has proposed to establish an international legal framework to prevent the proliferation of counterfeits and pirated goods, and is discussing the issue with major countries. At Japan’s overseas establishments, efforts are being made to strengthen responses to this issue through the appointment of an Intellectual Property Consultant.² In addition, through a number of multilateral fora, efforts are being made to solidify measures against counterfeits and pirated goods, including through Japan-US³ dialogue, as well as in Japan-EU and Japan-China talks on strengthening and cooperating in the protection of intellectual property, the G8 Summit,⁴ Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC),⁵ and the

1. At an Ambassadors’ Meeting held in May with the participation of Japan’s serving ambassadors from around the world, one of the agenda items was assistance for Japanese companies, and ambassadors engaged in exchanges of opinions with representatives of major economic organizations and other related institutions. The meeting confirmed that ambassadors would take the lead in identifying the needs and challenges facing Japanese companies overseas, and that further efforts would be made to support Japanese companies.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).⁶ In relation to the same issue, a request⁷ for information has been submitted to China based on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

(d) Regulatory Reform

Since 1994, the Government of Japan has been engaged in the Japan-EU Regulatory Reform Dialogue with the aim of promoting two-way trade and investment. The dialogue contributes to the advancement of Japan-EU economic relations by providing a framework for exchange of opinions on the basis of mutual proposals on regulatory reforms and improvements of business environment of both parties. In the process of formulating Japan's proposals to the EU for the dialogue, the Government of Japan surveys Japanese companies operating in Europe so as to incorporate their requests to the proposals. Japan's proposals to the EU in 2005 included the following issues: evaluation of the equivalency between Japanese accounting standards and International Accounting Standards (IAS);⁸ improvements on environment-related regulations, including the EU's proposal on the new regulation concerning the control of chemicals (REACH);⁹ and simplification of expedition of the process for work and residence permits

for which in particular a number of requests are submitted by Japanese companies operating in Europe. The dialogue has to date achieved progress on areas that are closely related to the daily lives of Japanese nationals living in European countries, including the further simplification and expedition of the process for the acquisition of work and residence permits in some EU Member States, and the return of Japanese driving licenses which are converted into local driving licenses.

As for dialogue with the US, Japan's requests are being realized based on the opinions of Japanese companies operating in the US, including the repeal of Title VIII of the United States Revenue Act of 1916 (so-called Anti Dumping Act of 1916),¹⁰ which Japan has been consistently calling for under the framework of the Japan-US Regulatory Reform and Competition Policy Initiative. Also, in response to the increased stringency of immigration procedures to the US, a streamlined procedure for issuing visas and strengthened measures to protect privacy concerning fingerprinting information collected by the US immigration authorities are being realized. Concrete results were also witnessed in June 2005, when the US government announced that the deadline for introduction of IC Passports that would be required for the continuance of the Visa Waiver Program for travelers to the US would be extended for one year, and in February 2006, when a repeal of the

2. 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 was assigned to each of Japan's overseas establishments in March.

3. In the working groups established under the Japan-US Regulatory Reform and Competition Policy Initiative, both sides have affirmed that Japan and the US will continue to cooperate closely in order to strengthen protection for intellectual property rights, including countermeasures against pirated goods. This affirmation was recorded in the Fourth Report to Leaders on the Japan-US Regulatory Reform and Competition Policy Initiative.

4. On the occasion of the G8 Gleneagles Summit in July, Japan called for the issue of intellectual property rights protection to be included on the summit agenda and for it also to be reflected in summit documentation. As a result, G8 members adopted a statement that sets out specific measures for more effective enforcement of intellectual property rights.

5. In June, at the meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, the APEC Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative was adopted after being jointly submitted by Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the US. At the APEC Ministerial Meeting held in November, the APEC Model Guidelines to Reduce Trade in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods, as outlined in the initiative, were approved and referred to in both the Joint Statement of the Ministerial Meeting and the Busan Declaration of the 13th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

6. From the perspective that counterfeiting and piracy are a global issue which countries around the world must tackle together, it was agreed at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in May to implement the OECD Project on Counterfeiting and Piracy, which will include the compilation of an analytical report on the economic impact of counterfeiting and piracy, and the convening of regional workshops and a global forum on the issue.

7. In order to gain a picture of the actual situation regarding infringement of intellectual property rights in China and collect specific data to enable requests for improvement to be made, on October 25 in Geneva, Japan submitted a request for information to the Chinese government, pursuant to Article 63.3 of the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

8. 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.

9. REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals) is a new regulatory framework that the EU is moving to introduce. 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 efforts.

10. Under this law, importers who have imported foreign goods at a dumped price with the intent to harm US domestic industries may be subject to criminal penalty such as fines or prison sentences, and to civil proceedings for the recovery of three times the damage sustained by US industry through the importer's dumping behavior.

Byrd Amendment,¹¹ which the Japanese government has consistently been requesting, was enacted.¹²

(e) Taxation Treaties

Taxation treaties have been concluded with a number of countries to date with the aim of avoiding double taxation. In February 2006, a protocol was signed with India amending the taxation treaty between the two countries. Negotiations are ongoing between Japan and both the Netherlands and France.

(f) Advancing the Interests of Japanese Companies through Social Security Agreements, Investment Agreements, etc.

Protecting Japanese investors and investment, and creating a favorable environment for investment activities are taking on greater importance for the Japanese economy. Japan has already concluded investment treaties with 13 countries,¹³ including pioneering agreements with the ROK and Viet Nam that not only protect investment, but also guarantee investment liberalization. In recent years, Japan has been positioning investment liberalization as one of the main goals to be promoted also in its active negotiations on Economic Partnership

Agreements (EPAs). Indeed, the Japan-Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement (JMEPA) that was signed in December also contains reference to the promotion of bilateral investment. Furthermore, Japan, China, and the ROK currently discuss and seek the possibility of establishing a legal framework to promote investment. With regard to the formulation of multilateral rules on investment, although negotiations in the WTO Doha Round were cut off, Japan is continuing to participate actively in discussions in a variety of frameworks, including the Investment Experts Group (IEG) of APEC.

With the goal of eliminating such problems as double contributions to social security systems and pension benefits unpaid due to inadequate periods of contribution, social security agreements are thought to reduce the burden on Japanese companies and nationals overseas and to further promote bilateral interchange of personnel and economic exchanges between countries. In 2005, social security agreements with the US and the ROK entered into force and agreements with France and Belgium were approved by the Diet. An agreement with Canada was signed in February 2006, and negotiations have been initiated with Australia and the Netherlands.

11. The Byrd Amendment obliges the administration to distribute the revenue from anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed on foreign products to US domestic companies that supported the anti-dumping or countervailing petitions.

12. The repeal law stipulates that: (1) the Byrd Amendment will be abolished; but (2) that until October 1, 2007, any anti-dumping duties collected on imports entering the US before October 1, 2007 will continue to be distributed according to the provisions of the Byrd Amendment.

13. Both the Japan-Singapore EPA and the Japan-Mexico EPA include a chapter on investment (stipulating the content of investment agreements).

Communicating the “Japanese Brand” Overseas through Public-Private Partnerships

In January every year, more than 2,000 executives, politicians, and experts from countries around the world gather in Davos, Switzerland, well known as a ski resort, for the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting (Davos Meeting). Here, more than 200 sessions discuss issues such as the world economy, politics, society, culture, and so on, giving top political and business leaders the opportunity to engage in passionate debate.

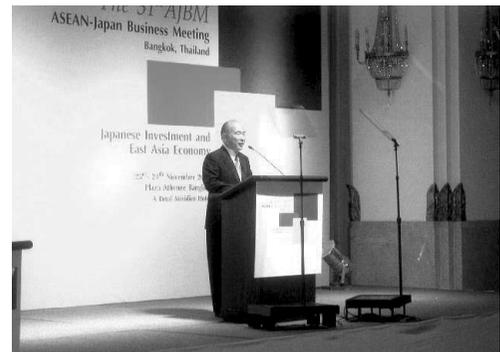
As the Japanese economy continues to revive gradually, the 2006 Davos Meeting saw an even greater level of participation from Japanese ministers and executives than in previous years, and provided a perfect opportunity to stamp upon the world the image of “the sun also rises.” Nevertheless, having participated in the meeting in the last few years, I was swept by a sense of crisis that with participants’ attention focused on China and India, whose economies continue to grow at a rapid pace, Japan’s presence is growing relatively weaker year by year.

For Japan, which faces a shrinking population and is poor in natural resources, maintaining and increasing international competitiveness in the medium and long term is no easy task. Japan needs to become a meeting place (hub) of the finest human resources, capital, and information from all over the world in order to further develop and establish a high value-added “Japanese brand” and promote it to global society. This requires not only the effort of the private sector, but also needs to be emphasized as a part of a diplomatic strategy that attaches great importance to “soft power.”*

In many other countries, we see many examples of proactive public-private partnerships advertising each country’s “brand.” For example, when the head of state or minister visits another country, they may be accompanied by a number of company executives representing the country; they are then active together in promoting their country’s products and attracting

more investment. Likewise, on the occasion of international competitions in architecture or art, the diplomatic mission at the place of the competition will sometimes host a commemorative reception in honor of their awarded compatriot, while also publicizing the achievement to the local public. Against the background of such activities lies a clear philosophy whereby the promotion of companies, products, services, or individuals that epitomize a national brand is not for the individual profit of that one company, industry, or person, but rather a way to contribute toward the wealth of the entire country and communicate the attractiveness of the nation as a whole to others. In Japan’s diplomacy, too, I hope that we can build creative public-private partnerships for communicating the “Japanese brand” overseas while learning from the best practices of other countries.

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Mr. Kitashiro speaking at the ASEAN-Japan Business Meeting, a place for exchange and discussion among executives from Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries (Photo: Secretariat of Japan Association of Corporate Executives)

* “Soft power” is the ability to get another country to move in one’s desired direction by eliciting its admiration and charming it by virtue of a strong philosophy and culture.

D Promotion of Exchange and Security Measures, Issues Relating to Foreigners in Japan

1 Promotion of Exchange and Security Measures

From the dual perspectives of promoting people-to-people exchanges with foreign countries while maintaining domestic security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is engaged in efforts to issue visas in an appropriate manner. From January 2005 onwards, in order to promote business and cultural exchange, MOFA has streamlined the issuance criteria for multiple-entry visas for temporary visitors from countries in Asia, Oceania, Latin America, Russia, and New Independent States (NIS) countries. In addition, the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan (EXPO 2005) provided an opportunity to increase the number of tourists from Asian countries and to promote understanding about Japan. Taking this opportunity, the government decided to exempt people from the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Taiwan from visa requirements as temporary visitors for the duration of the exposition. In the case of the ROK, these measures were provisionally extended until the end of February 2006, and based on the results of the exemption period, it was decided that from March 2006 onwards, the exemption of the temporary visitors visa requirements would remain in effect indefinitely. In the case of Taiwan, with the enactment of the special law of the Immigration Control

and Refugee Recognition Act (Immigration Act) on August 5, which allowed for the visa exemption after the conclusion of EXPO 2005, it was decided that visa exemptions for Taiwanese people would also remain in place. In the case of China, visas for group tours have been issued to Chinese group tourists (organized by authorized travel agencies) in certain regions of China, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong Province since September 2000, but from July 25, during the course of EXPO 2005, the issuance of group tourism visas was expanded to the whole area of China.

At the same time, efforts were made to respond to public security issues in Japan, and bilateral consultations were held in 2005 with Iran, Brazil, the ROK, Russia, and China concerning measures to prevent illegal overstayers and serious crimes caused by foreigners coming and staying in Japan. As measures designed to counter forged and altered visas, efforts were promoted for installing a system to issue Machine-Readable Visas (MRV) and the creation of a Wide Area Network visa system that enables the instantaneous sharing of visa-related information. These systems are now in place in virtually all Japan's overseas establishments.

2 Issues Relating to Foreigners in Japan

Since the 1990s, the number of foreigners residing in Japan has been rapidly increasing, reaching a current level of approximately two million. The number of foreigners residing in Japan is forecast to continue to increase. Since the amendment of the Immigration Act in 1990, the acceptance of long-term residents, in particular Brazilians of Japanese descent, has brought a number of issues to the fore, including non-registration for social insurance, Japanese language education for themselves or their families, increases in juvenile crime, and friction with local communities. These issues have increased the burden on those cities where foreign residents concentrate. Given this situation, the government has taken a variety of measures, but because of the multifaceted nature of the issues, a number of government

agencies and ministries are involved, bringing with it the need for a government-wide response.

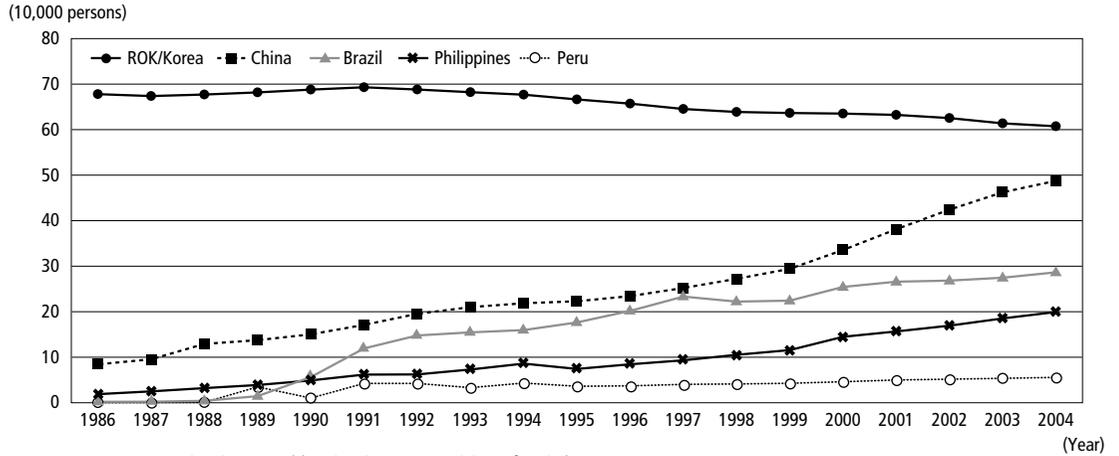
In February 2005, MOFA convened a symposium with the cooperation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) entitled "How Should Japan Respond to the Issues of Foreigners?" which was based on the report of the Council on the Movement of People Across Borders issued in October 2004. At that symposium discussion took place about what measures Japan should take from now on concerning the issues of foreigners, taking into reference the experiences of a number of European countries, etc., concerning the acceptance of foreigners, with input provided by experts from various fields.

Furthermore, in addition to ensuring that foreigners

are afforded the rights entitled to them as workers, and that they are protected through the social security net and have access to administrative services such as education for children of a compulsory education age, from the

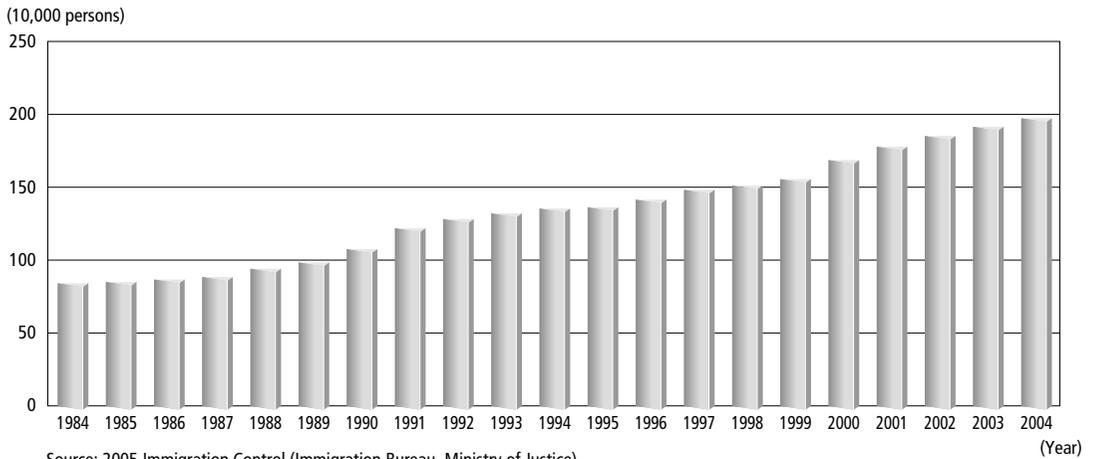
perspective of preventing crimes and law infringements involving foreigners, it has become an urgent task to take comprehensive measures for accepting foreigners as an integral part of Japanese society.

Fluctuations in Number of Registered Foreigners by Nationality



Source: 2005 Immigration Control (Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice).
 * The terminology "Korea" refers to persons of Korean descent who have come to Japan from the Korean peninsula or their descendants and does not imply nationality, but instead refers to the fact that the nationality of such persons is not referred to as "ROK" in alien registration procedures.

Fluctuations in Number of Registered Foreigners in Japan



Source: 2005 Immigration Control (Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice).