



CHAPTER 3

Japan's Foreign Policy in Major Diplomatic Fields

A Efforts to Achieve Peace and Stability in the International Community

(a) Japan-US Security Arrangements

The Japan-US Security Arrangements have brought peace and prosperity to Japan and the Far East since the end of World War II. In addition, they have effectively functioned as the fundamental framework supporting stability and development in the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, North Korea's launch of ballistic missiles in July and nuclear tests in October demonstrated that elements of instability still exist in the Asia-Pacific region even since the end of the Cold War, including regional conflicts and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, among others. In order to ensure the peace and stability of Japan and the region, under such circumstances, it is critical that Japan further reinforce the Japan-US Security Arrangements and its relationship with its ally the United States.

The governments of Japan and the United States continue to hold consultations so as to further

strengthen the Japan-US Security Arrangements, and based on these discussions, the realignment of US forces, Japan is underway. Furthermore, the fact that the United States has an unwavering commitment to carrying out its defense obligations towards Japan has been reconfirmed on repeated occasions. For example, immediately after the nuclear test incident in North Korea, President Bush stated that the United States will meet the full range of its security commitments to Japan. In addition, not long after, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited Japan and she reconfirmed to Prime Minister Abe the firm commitment of the United States with regard to the defense of Japan in accordance with all of the Japan-US Security Arrangements and commitments including the Japan-US Security Treaty. Secretary Rice also declared that the United States has the will and the capability to meet the full range of its obligations regarding the defense of Japan.

(b) Measures to Counter Terrorism and International Organized Crime

Since the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, the international community has placed countering terrorism as among its highest priorities. In various fora such as the United Nations, the G8, and other multilateral frameworks, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), and other regional cooperation bodies, as well as bilateral cooperation mechanisms, the need for strengthening counter-terrorism measures has been confirmed, and thus, substantial cooperation as well as strengthening of political will have been making steady progress.

Although the leadership and the number of

combatants of the international terrorist organization Al-Qaeda and other related groups have declined, their strength still cannot be underestimated. 2006 saw terrorist incidents occur all around the world. Japanese tourists and persons living abroad as well as Japanese companies have also been affected by the threat of international terrorism, such as the terrorist plot revealed in August to blow up airplanes in the UK.

Terrorism is an issue affecting more than the safety of the nation and its citizens. Through its impact on investment, tourism, trade, and so on, it is an issue that can have an enormous impact on the economy of a nation. Taking the stance that terrorism

can be neither justified nor tolerated for any reason, Japan considers counter-terrorism as its own security issue. Making use of a broad range of approaches, such as providing assistance to other countries and strengthening international legal frameworks, Japan will continue to actively strengthen its counter-terrorism efforts in cooperation with the international community.

Furthermore, human trafficking, drug-related crime, cyber crime, money laundering, and other cross-border organized crime (international organized crime) are escalating further, as a result of globalization, the sophistication of communications networks, and an expansion in the movements of

people. Within international frameworks such as the United Nations, the G8, and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)¹⁵, discussions and exchanges of views are being held on concerted measures to be undertaken in response to international organized crime, and Japan, as one of the important members of those framework organizations, is actively involved in such international efforts. In particular, conventions and other forms of international rule-making are important, and Japan is working towards the conclusion of conventions on international organized crime while it promotes the establishment of the necessary legal framework domestically.

(c) Regional Security

Due to its diversities in political and economic systems as well as in cultural and ethnic backgrounds, there has not been a development of a multilateral collective security institution in the Asia-Pacific region that is comparable to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in Europe. Instead, regional stability has been maintained primarily through the building up of bilateral security ar-

rangements, with the United States at its core.

Japan's stance is that it is practical and appropriate to develop and strengthen a multilayered framework for bilateral and multilateral dialogues while securing the presence and engagement of the US in the Asia-Pacific region in order to realize a stable security environment surrounding Japan as well as to ensure peace and stability in the region.

(d) The United Nations

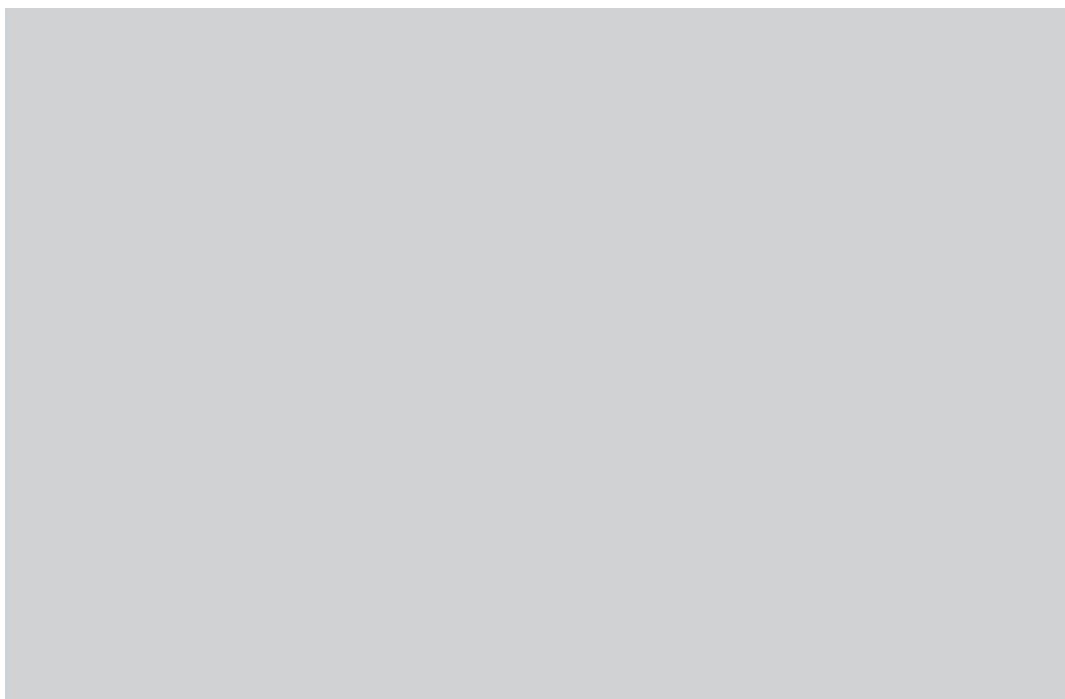
The United Nations (UN) is the only universal, comprehensive international organization. Through the activities of its various organs such as the General Assembly and the Security Council, the UN is aiming to maintain peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations and to achieve international cooperation with regard to economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues as well as human rights. Today's international community faces many challenges which individual countries and regions find difficult to deal with by themselves, such as structural changes resulting from rapid globalization, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, poverty, and infectious diseases. This has led to the UN assuming an increasingly important role. Japan regards international cooperation as one of the main pillars of its diplomatic policy and therefore has been conducting active diplomacy through the UN as well as making contributions to this or-

ganization both in terms of its finance and personnel.

The year 2006 marked the 50th anniversary of Japan's admission to the UN. In May, Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited Japan to exchange views with political leaders and senior officials. He also delivered a speech at the University of Tokyo. In December, a formal commemorative ceremony was held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Japan's admission to the UN, along with many other ceremonial events on this occasion. (See the column entitled, "The Fiftieth Anniversary of Japan's Admission to the United Nations.")

Japan served as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for two years from January 2005. This was the ninth time that Japan was elected to this post, which is a record shared only by Brazil. During its tenure, Japan made significant contributions to deliberations in the Council on the maintenance of international peace and security, including

15. An international framework that was created at the 1989 G8 "Summit of the Arch" as a measure to fight money laundering. A total of 31 countries and territories, especially those who are Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries, and two international organizations are members. Currently, the FATF is also playing a leading role with regard to measures against the financing of terrorism.



North Korea, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Iran's nuclear program and Lebanon. In particular, Japan firmly led the discussions in the Security Council towards the adoption of its two resolutions in response to the launch of ballistic missiles by North Korea in July 2006 and its announcement of a nuclear test in October that year. Furthermore, during its Presidency of the Security Council in October 2006, Japan, together with the other Security Council mem-

bers, recommended to the General Assembly that Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, be appointed as the next Secretary-General. He was eventually elected as the first UN Secretary-General from Asia in 35 years. These various contributions amply demonstrate that Japan is a country that deserves to play a larger role in the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

(e) Efforts towards Peacebuilding

Since the end of the Cold War, regional conflicts and civil wars stemming from various causes including antagonism between religions and ethnic groups have been on the rise. Today, the world also faces new threats such as terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Within this context, the international community, including the UN Security Council, is expanding its efforts in both quality and quantity for conflict prevention and mediation for peace.

There has also been increasing interest in "peacebuilding" at the G8 summit in recent years, while the UN Peacebuilding Commission,¹⁶ estab-

lished with the objective of providing seamless assistance during the transition from post-conflict peacekeeping to reconstruction and development, started its activities in June 2006.

Japan's engagement in peacebuilding not only improves its own security environment but also contributes to further enhancing the international trust that it enjoys as a nation of peace. Peacebuilding is therefore one of the major elements of Japan's diplomatic agenda, and Japan, with partners such as the UN and other international organizations, individual countries and NGOs, has been actively taking concrete measures in this regard, utilizing its diplomatic

16. UN Peacebuilding Commission: Created in December 2005, the Commission is composed of a standing Organizational Committee, which discusses operational rules and means for conducting activities, and country-specific meetings, which discuss strategies for peacebuilding in particular countries. The Organizational Committee is made up of 31 member countries, specifically: (1) seven from the Security Council, (2) seven from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), (3) five out of the top 10 financial contributors to the UN budgets, and (4) five out of the top 10 providers of personnel to UN missions, and (5) seven elected by the General Assembly, to ensure equitable geographical representation.

means including ODA from the perspective of ensuring “human security”¹⁷ as well as drawing on its

experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

(f) Disarmament and Non-proliferation (Including International Cooperation in Science and Technology and in the Field of Nuclear Energy)

2006 was a year in which the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime continued to face various challenges, including North Korea's missile launches in July and the subsequent proclaimed nuclear test in October as well as Iran's nuclear issues. Under these circumstances, Japan engages in various diplomatic efforts for the maintenance and reinforcement of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, with the aims of creating a safe

and peaceful world free of conflicts and nuclear weapons and improving the international security environment.

With regard to science and technology, Japan is working towards the prosperity of international society through bilateral and multilateral cooperation in fields such as nuclear energy, space, and nuclear fusion.

(g) Human Rights

Human rights and democracy are values and systems that are fundamental to each person's individual happiness, and the sufficient development of human rights and democratic foundations is directly tied to the creation of a peaceful and prosperous society and therefore to the peace and security of international society. In the speech that Foreign Minister Aso delivered in November regarding the Arc of Freedom and Prosperity, he stressed that Japan will emphasize fundamental values such as human rights and democracy as a new pillar of its diplomacy.¹⁸

In the UN as well, movement towards “mainstreaming of human rights” is gaining speed, such as with the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit reconfirming that human rights constitute one of the three main pillars of the United Nations, as well as with the establishment in March of the United Nations Human Rights Council, intended to strengthen the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that it succeeded. The UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whose negotiations Japan actively participated in, and their adoption demonstrated significant movement forward in the strengthening of mechanisms in the UN to protect and promote human rights.

Furthermore, in the elections to the Committee

on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (June) and to the Human Rights Committee of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹⁹ (September), Ambassador in charge of Human Rights Saiga Fumiko and Professor Iwasawa Yuji, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo, were elected respectively. Japan believes that it can also continue to contribute to the international protection and promotion of human rights through the activities of these specialists.

In the area of democracy, in October, Dr. Arima Tatsuo, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan, attended the 6th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (held in Qatar), where, based on Japan's experiences, he emphasized the fact that democracy is indispensable in attaining peace and prosperity based on Japan's experience. Also, in order to advance Japan's diplomatic policy in which universal values are emphasized, Japan decided to contribute US\$10 million to the UN Democracy Fund.

Japan will strengthen its diplomacy for enhancing human rights and democracy by establishing mutual linkages between its efforts related to human rights and democracy in the multilateral arena, such as in the UN, and its bilateral efforts, conducted through human rights dialogues and development assistance.

17. Cf. Chapter 3, A (i) “Promoting International Cooperation”

18. In the speech on the Arc of Freedom and Prosperity delivered by Foreign Minister Aso in November, the Minister underlined the emphasis that Japan will place on human rights, democracy, and other universal values as Japan's new pillar of diplomacy.

19. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

(h) Strengthening the “Rule of Law” in International Community

The significance of the “rule of law” in international society has been steadily increasing in recent years. For example, the rule of law at the national and international levels was taken up for the first time in 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Sixth Committee, which deals with legal issues at the UN.

The rule of law in international society has the dual aspects of (i) rule-making, in which the rule of law in each state is ensured through the conclusion of conventions and so on, and (ii) dispute resolution, in which disputes between states are resolved peacefully based on international law.

Both of these aspects of the rule of law in international society are important elements of Japan’s diplomatic policy. In addition, the promotion of the rule of law in international society is not only instrumental in maintaining the peace and stability of international society but also a basis for strengthening Japan’s relations with neighboring and other states. It also leads to ensuring freedom of activities by individuals, including economic activities. Foreign Minister Aso stated in a policy speech he delivered in November that as a new pillar of its foreign policy, Japan would emphasize universal values, including the rule of law, and create the “Arc of Freedom and Prosperity.”

Regarding rule-making, the first of the two aspects of the rule of law in international society mentioned above, it is important to actively participate in international rule-making in various fields and to en-

gage in efforts to make such rules universal. For example, in the field of international human rights and humanitarian law, cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has begun to undertake full-scale activities, and in the area of facilitating economic activities, developing international economic rules through the WTO, EPAs, and FTAs are crucial.

With regard to dispute resolution, the second of the two aspects, it is essential to apply international law appropriately and actively when formulating and implementing concrete diplomatic policies and resolving disputes. In particular, the importance of international law is further increasing for the peaceful resolution of disputes related to the sea through negotiations and other means. Moreover, it should not be overlooked that Japan, a key nation in international society, can make active contributions towards consolidating the rule of law in international society by repeatedly utilizing international law.

Within this context, Japan is actively participating in efforts by international society towards the creation of international legal norms that will serve as the basis for the rule of law in international society. Specifically, Japan contributes actively to discussions among others in the UNGA Sixth Committee and the International Law Commission (ILC), aiming at the progressive development of international law and its codification. In November, Ambassador Yamada Chusei was re-elected to his position as a member of the ILC.

(i) The Promotion of International Cooperation (Including Development and Efforts to Address Environmental and Other Global Issues)

2006 marked the start of Japan’s revamped system for the planning and implementation of international cooperation (Official Development Assistance [ODA] and cooperation through international organizations). This change was made so that Japan could utilize its ODA more strategically and effectively. Taking up the recommendations included in the final report of the Study Group on Overseas Economic Cooperation, consulted by the Chief Cabinet Secretary, the government established in April the Overseas Economic Cooperation Council, made up of the Prime Minister and a small number of Cabinet members to deliberate flexibly and substantially impor-

tant matters on Japan’s overseas economic cooperation. Then, under the basic strategy deliberated by this Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which continues to play the core role in concrete policy formulation, policy planning and coordination of ODA, created the International Cooperation Planning Headquarters, which deals with international cooperation and answers directly to the Foreign Minister, and also created in August the International Cooperation Bureau by merging the Economic Cooperation Bureau with the divisions of the Global Issues Department that deal with multilateral development and cooperation through international or-

ganizations. Through this change, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has created a system by which it can achieve organized coordination between its bilateral assistance and its assistance through international organizations and engage in the policy formulation, policy planning, and coordination of international cooperation that is more closely in tune with diplomatic policy. As for implementing agencies, the system of having a different implementation system for each type of assistance—specifically, yen loans handled by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, technical cooperation handled by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and grant aid handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—has been revised, and under the new system, it will be fundamentally JICA that has responsibility for these aid instruments in an integrated way. In November, the Revised Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Law was passed, and preparatory work is underway for the reorganization scheduled in October of 2008.

Under this new system, it is necessary to promote international cooperation more actively so that Japan is highly appreciated and respected by international society and Japan's presence and influence in international society expand. Important philosophical underpinnings in such efforts are the principles outlined in the ODA Charter, namely freedom, democracy, fundamental human rights, and the realization of a market economy, as well as the perspective of "human security," which seeks the development of individuals, societies, and nations by placing emphasis on each individual and realizing the abundant potential that exists in every person through the protection of, and the empowerment of, individuals.

In keeping with these philosophical underpinnings, the Government of Japan undertakes international cooperation mainly with two objectives. The

first of these is contributing to international peace and stability and discharging Japan's responsibilities as a member of international society, by (i) working for development of developing countries by reducing poverty through economic growth, and (ii) working to resolve global issues such as environmental issues, infectious diseases, and the fight against terrorism. The fact that international cooperation has become a major topic at various international meetings, including the G8 Summit, shows that the importance of this objective will grow even more into the future. The second objective is the securing of Japan's national interests within a globalizing world by responding accurately to a new international environment characterized by the rise of such countries as China and India, and also by planning and implementing international cooperation that is more closely in concordance with diplomatic policy. Japan regards this as the new role of ODA as well. As the economy develops in Asia in particular, the market expands and mutual interdependency among countries deepens still further. As this occurs, through its ODA, Japan enhances infrastructure for production and distribution, builds institutions for protecting intellectual property rights, and facilitates economic partnerships, thereby further developing private economic activity, including Japan's. In addition, it is important for Japan's economic growth to secure a stable supply of energy and mineral resources and to promote cooperation in the fields of energy conservation and alternative energies.

In a speech delivered in November, Foreign Minister Aso proposed that the newly-emerging democracies around the outer rim of Eurasia be connected to form an "Arc of Freedom and Prosperity." Japan intends to undertake international cooperation including ODA in a strategic and effective manner in order to realize that goal.

B Efforts to Ensure Prosperity in the International Community

In 2006 the global economy grew very strongly. The US economy continued to expand despite the moderating growth rate as a result of adjustments in the housing market, while the euro zone economy recovered steadily. China and other emerging economies continued to show remarkable growth, driving the growth of the world economy. The Japanese economy also showed steady growth with its recov-

ery phase continuing and its overcoming of deflation coming into view. Within this context, Japan, in an effort to further strengthen the Japanese and the world economies, is engaged in comprehensive economic diplomacy based on the pillars of the five priority issues given below. These five priority issues are (1) maintaining and strengthening the multilateral trading system, which is centered on negotia-

tions towards the final conclusion of the WTO Doha Round, and strategic promotion of bilateral and regional FTAs and EPAs to supplement the multilateral trading system, (2) strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights, including measures to prevent the proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods, (3) enhancing economic security for energy and food, and securing of ocean economic interests, (4) strengthening of economic relations through bilateral frameworks for the countries of North America, Europe and others, or multilateral frameworks, such as G8, OECD, APEC, and ASEM, and (5) strengthening the international competitiveness of Japanese companies and the Japanese economy itself.

In order to resolve the issues involved, Japan is determined to participate actively in efforts to bring about the prosperity of the international community and work to promote Japan's economic interests.

Since 2003, when Japan launched its Invest Japan campaign, the government as a whole has been working to promote investment in Japan, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has allowed the active use of its Embassies, Consulates and Permanent Missions overseas while contributing to public relations through cooperation with various organizations in Japan. As a result, the FDI (foreign direct investment) inward stock in Japan as of the end of 2005 reached about 11.9 trillion yen.

C Public Relations Overseas and Cultural Diplomacy

In recent years, against a backdrop of the development of the Internet and the mass media and the advance of democratic institutions in countries around the globe, the impact of citizens on diplomatic policy is increasing. Within such a context, it has become more and more critical for diplomatic activities to take a direct approach towards not only foreign governments but also foreign nationals. The government is expanding its efforts in overseas public relations and cultural exchange so as to increase foreigners' understanding of and affinity towards Japan. It is also working to promote exchanges with citizens of other countries and effectively convey to them Japan's diplomatic policies and national circumstances as well as the appeal of Japanese culture.

The Council on the Movement of People Across Borders, an advisory body to the Foreign Minister, has given careful consideration to the importance of this "public diplomacy"—that is, diplomacy conducted towards citizens of other nations—and has been examining effective ways to conduct public relations and cultural exchange. Since March, the Council has taken up the theme of "Measure and Framework for Strengthening Japan's Capability of Dissemination" and its discussions have covered such topics as enhancing external communication via television, the utilization of pop culture and Japanese language education, and strengthening ties with neighboring countries through public diplomacy and cultural exchange.

In addition, in April, Foreign Minister Aso deliv-



People in Samawah (Iraq) using the water wagon (provided by Japan's Grant Aid) with Captain Majed, a popular cartoon, on it (©Yoichi Takahashi, Shueisha)

ered a policy speech that highlighted the usefulness of incorporating culture into diplomacy, proposing (i) the creation of an award for up-and-coming non-Japanese *manga* artists, (ii) the introduction of superior works of Japan's anime abroad as "Cultural Ambassadors of Anime," and (iii) introducing a program for Cultural Exchange Interns. All of these are now on their way to becoming a reality.

In addition, in recent years, Japan has reached

agreements with other countries to hold commemorative events for various anniversaries and conducted intensive exchange activities. Through these undertakings, Japan is working to increase mutual understanding with other countries in an effective way. In 2006, the Australia-Japan Year of Exchange was held, among others, and in 2007, commemorative cultural events will be held with China and India, to name just two.