



## CHAPTER 4

# Japanese People Active in the International Community and Roles of Diplomacy

## A Japanese People and Companies Active in the International Community

The international community's response to various challenges is becoming increasingly critical with regard to not only terrorism and conflicts, which threaten political and security frameworks, but also global issues such as violations of human rights, poverty, infectious diseases, and intensifying environmental degradation resulting from rapid globalization. Within this context, the roles played by international organizations become increasingly significant and the duties of international civil servants working at international institutions also grow in importance.

In order to increase the number of Japanese personnel in the UN and other international organizations, Japan has been making efforts to identify superior candidates while urging international organizations to hire and promote Japanese staff. In concrete terms, Japan has been working to increase the number of Japanese staff by making use of the AE (Associate Expert)/JPO (Junior Professional Officer) Programme<sup>20</sup> for young professionals and receiving recruitment missions from international organizations, etc. As a result of these efforts, there are now 671 Japanese staff members serving at international organizations (2006 figure), with this number increasing steadily over the years (cf. graph entitled, "Number of Japanese Staff in UN-related International Organizations (Professional staff and Above)"). These include heads of international organizations chosen through elections as well as people who are making their career as international civil servants, ranging from young professionals to senior officials. These personnel are active across the entire spectrum of fields and work all around the globe, includ-

ing areas in conflict such as Afghanistan and the vicinity of Iraq.<sup>21</sup> Japan will continue its efforts to identify candidates while calling on international organizations to hire and promote Japanese staff.

More than 400 Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are estimated to be involved in international cooperation activities. In light of the various issues facing international society, such as natural disasters and regional conflicts, NGOs that are capable of providing well-tailored, swift, and flexible responses well in tune with local societies and residents are coming to be of greater and greater importance. Japanese NGOs have been conducting activities in the fields of not only development assistance and emergency humanitarian relief but also the environment, human rights, trade, disarmament and non-proliferation, and international organized crime.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs values the role of NGOs highly. Regarding them as a major player in Japan's diplomacy that provides "assistance with a Japanese face," the Ministry is working to strengthen its coordination with NGOs.

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and Senior Overseas Volunteers (SVs) look at issues and implement solutions hand-in-hand with local people overseas. As one type of "assistance with a Japanese face," these volunteers contribute to growth in developing countries while also playing a significant role in fostering mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and developing countries. In addition, the JOCVs and SVs give feedback to Japanese society in various ways upon their re-

20. A program under which aspiring international civil servants are dispatched, in principle for two years, to international organizations at the expense of the Japanese government to enable the candidates to gain work experience and increase the likelihood of them becoming full employees of international organizations in the future. As of January 2006, approximately 80 persons were participating in this program.

21. Japanese elected to head international organizations by the organizations' member states include Matsuura Koichiro, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and Utsumi Yoshio, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU; resigned December 2006), as well as Tanaka Nobuo, Executive Director-elect of the International Energy Agency (IEA), who will assume office in September 2007.

turn home, such as sharing their experiences in schools or with their communities. Their unique activities have been highly appreciated both in Japan

and in the countries to which they have been dispatched.

## B Assistance for Japanese Companies

Amidst the advance of globalization, there is a growing need to improve the business environment required for Japanese companies' overseas operations and let the "Japan Brand" be known overseas, based on the trust, high evaluations, and praise that Japanese companies and individuals have earned through their activities overseas. In recent years there has been a mounting need for further strengthening of public-private partnerships to make this "Japan Brand" more widely known. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that 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 Japanese economy. With this in mind, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs listens to a broad range of opinions of Japanese companies and conducts dialogues and consultations on

regulatory reform with the United States and the European Union, calling for concrete improvements regarding the problems that Japanese companies face. Furthermore, as a country committed to becoming an "intellectual property-based nation," in an effort to strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights of Japanese companies in foreign markets, the Ministry utilizes bilateral and multilateral consultations and negotiations to urge other countries to cooperate in strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights and in taking measures against counterfeit and pirated goods. Furthermore, Japan is working to establish legal and institutional foundations through the conclusion of conventions for the avoidance of double taxation, investment agreements, and social security agreements.

## C Efforts to Increase the Safety and Peace of Mind of Japanese Traveling or Living Overseas

International exchanges are becoming more common, and in 2005 the number of Japanese nationals living overseas exceeded one million people for the first time since the end of World War II. The number of people living or visiting abroad has been growing year by year, and as a result there has been both an increase and a diversification in the consular service requests made to diplomatic missions overseas. Within this context, in order to protect and en-

hance the interests of Japanese citizens, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been implementing measures to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals overseas as well as making efforts to provide accurate and finely-tailored responses to their needs, including the accurate execution of various government services and the implementation of policies and measures that support overseas living and overseas activities.

## D Ensuring Safety and Peace of Mind within Japanese Society and Responses to Issues Relating to Foreigners in Japan

### (a) Promotion of Exchange and Security Measures

From the dual perspectives of promoting tourism and other people-to-people exchanges between Japan and foreign countries and ensuring safety and peace of mind within Japanese society, Japanese embassies and consulates overseas have been engaged in efforts to issue visas in an appropriate manner. In order to promote people-to-people exchanges with

the ROK, the government decided that from March 2006 onwards, the exemption of the temporary visitors visa requirements, which had been provisionally implemented and extended, would remain in effect indefinitely. As for China, in addition to the measure taken in July 2005 which expanded the issuance of group tourism visas for Chinese group

tourists to the whole area of China, further measures to facilitate visa procedures were implemented, such as increasing the number of consular offices in China that accept group tourism visa applications from August 2006. Such efforts have been effective, with the number of foreign visitors, particularly visitors from Asia, showing a marked increase.

At the same time, in order to enhance safety and peace of mind in Japanese society, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held bilateral consultations on consular issues with Turkey, China, the ROK, and Vietnam in 2006, resulting in a strengthening of bilateral dialogue and cooperation to prevent crimes and illegal overstayings. With regard to visa examinations, stringent confirmation of applicants' identi-

ties is underway, to prevent, for example, a person from Latin America entering Japan by pretending to be a person of Japanese descent, or a person of Japanese descent with a criminal history entering Japan as a long-term resident. In addition, to prevent human trafficking, which leads to grave violations of the human rights of foreign women and others, various measures have been put in place, resulting in the number of people entering Japan through the abuse of "entertainer" visas decreasing drastically since 2005. To accompany this, the examination of "temporary visitors" visa applications has also been strengthened so that people cannot misuse such visas to enter the country for the purpose of human trafficking.

### **(b) Issues Relating to Foreigners in Japan**

Recent years have seen an ongoing increase in the number of foreign residents in Japan (currently approximately 2 million people), with foreign nationals currently comprising more than 1.5% of the total population. Moreover, the number of foreign residents is expected to continue to increase. Within this trend, since the amendment of the Immigration Act (the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act) in 1990, there has been a pronounced increase in the number of Brazilian and Peruvian nationals of Japanese descent residing in Japan. Differences of culture, traditions, and language have led to friction with local communities and other issues manifesting themselves, and comprehensive measures for accepting foreigners as an integral part of Japanese society have become an urgent issue. With other major countries also searching for new means for immigrants to become accepted as members of society, the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg in July established a shared recognition of the importance of enhancing language competencies and exchanging the knowledge gained in each country in the area of social integration.

In response to heightening social concern over these issues, the government is currently conduct-

ing intragovernmental reviews that examine the state of acceptance of foreign residents in society and the state of administrative services towards foreign residents ("Working Team on the Oversight of Resident Foreigners" and "Meetings of Ministries and Agencies Engaged in Foreign Laborer Issues"). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively involved in these discussions, for example by introducing the experiences of other countries with regard to immigration issues.

The Ministry has also been convening an international symposium every year since 2005 for the purpose of promoting discussion among the Japanese people regarding issues related to foreigners. In the 2006 symposium the experience and knowledge that Germany gained through its national immigration policies was introduced, and active debate and discussions took place regarding various issues related to resident foreign nationals. In the future as well, the Ministry will deal actively with this issue and further develop its relationship with the cities and local areas having large numbers of foreign residents, such as by providing information about efforts being undertaken in other countries.