



## CHAPTER 5

# Japanese Diplomacy Backed by Public Understanding and Support

### A Strategic Information Provision as the Foundation for Proactive Diplomacy

In promoting Japan's "proactive diplomacy"—that is, diplomacy in which Japan's goals and intentions are clearly enunciated—it is critically important that Japan, as a democratic nation, gain the understanding and support of its people with regard to its diplomatic policy and the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In light of this, beyond (i) intensifying the provision of information to newspapers, television shows, and other kinds of mass media that the

Japanese people interact with on a daily basis, in recent years, the Ministry has also proactively undertaken new efforts, namely (ii) publicizing information through the Internet, and (iii) providing information to eminent persons in various fields. In addition, the Ministry is making efforts to have two-way communication with the Japanese people by (iv) public relations through dialogue with the people and (v) gathering public comments and opinions.

### B Strengthening Japan's Diplomatic Implementation Structures

Enhancing Japan's diplomatic capacity, particularly reinforcing its diplomatic implementation structures is an urgent issue for Japan. This will enable Japan to respond with agility and precision to the various challenges facing international society and to foster more potent diplomacy based on its national interests.

For this reason, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

is working to significantly improve its budget as well as diplomatic organizations and staffing, which are the bases of the nation's diplomatic implementation structures, while also making efforts towards stepping up its information gathering and analysis systems and enhancing its information processing capabilities through the use of information technology.