



Chapter 3

Japan's Foreign Policy in Major Global Issues

1. Efforts for Peace and Stability of Japan and the International Community

The current international security environment has changed qualitatively from that of the Cold War era. While the probability of conflict among major powers is decreasing, non-traditional threats have intensified, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles, increases of international terrorism and piracy, as well as global issues such as those related to poverty, the environment, refugees, illegal narcotics, and infectious diseases. In such a context, in order for Japan to maintain its territorial integrity, protect the lives and properties of Japanese nationals, and ensure prosperity and development, it is necessary for Japan to have a multi-faceted security policy to address not only traditional threats but also non-traditional threats.

Specifically, in addition to maintaining and reinforcing the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements, it is important to continue to actively pursue diplomatic efforts to enhance stable international relations with neighbouring countries, efforts towards fostering peace and stability in the international community and development of appropriate defence capabilities which will support the preceding efforts. The Japan-U.S. security arrangement has functioned effectively as a basic framework supporting the stability and development of the Asian Pacific region and has brought peace and prosperity to Japan and the Far East. At the same time, as demonstrated by North Korea's ballistic missiles and nuclear issues, elements of unpredictability including the situations surrounding the Taiwan Strait and the Korean Peninsula still exist in the Asia Pacific region, even after the end of the Cold War. Under these circumstances, it is important to further deepen the security

arrangement between Japan and our ally, the United States, to ensure the peace and security of Japan and of the region. Marking the 50th anniversary of the signing of the current Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in 2010, the two countries continue to collaborate for the purpose of strengthening cooperation not only bilaterally, but also in addressing issues concerning the Asia-Pacific region and global issues, and deepening the Japan-U.S. alliance in order to adapt to the environment of the 21st century.

In the Asia-Pacific region, we have not yet developed a multilateral collective defence security mechanism similar NATO in Europe, due to such factor as the diversity of political and economic systems, cultures, and ethnicities. Instead, regional stability has been maintained primarily through various bilateral security arrangements centered on the U.S.. In Japan's view it is both practical and appropriate to improve and strengthen the regional bilateral, multilateral dialogues and a regional framework to strengthen economic interdependence in a multilayered manner, while securing the presence and engagement of the U.S. so as to realize a stable security environment surrounding Japan and to ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

The role of the United Nations has become increasingly important. As the sole international organization with universal membership and comprehensive capacities, the UN continues to work for the maintenance of peace and security through such organs as the General Assembly and the Security Council. In addition, it promotes friendly relations among countries, and encourages international cooperation to resolve economic, social, cultural and humanitarian issues and to promote human rights.

Japan intends to make an active use of the UN and to strengthen it, so as to advance its national interests in the international community and to cope with the above-mentioned challenges under multilateral framework. For that purpose, Japan is striving for an early realization of UN reform, especially the Security Council reform, and is playing a leading role in major international organizations including the UN and making human resources and financial contributions.

Japan is also actively engaged in certain issues pertaining to specific international agendas. Japan is actively involved in disarmament and non-proliferation, as Japan has always regarded this endeavor as essential in improving its security environment and in achieving a peaceful world. In 2009, heads of state met to discuss nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at the UN Security Council for the first time. In the context of this growing international momentum, Japan has played a leading role in the maintenance and enhancement of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime based on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Furthermore, Japan is playing a proactive role in addressing regional conflicts, terrorism and transnational organized crimes which all are on rise around the world. In addition, as a maritime and trading country, ensuring maritime security and safety of maritime navigation is not only crucial for the prosperity of Japan, but also important to the economic development of the region. In particular, the number of pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia

and in the Gulf of Aden in 2009 was 217, which is approximately twice the number of incidents in 2008, and also the number of attacks in the Somali Basin has been on surge. Based on the view that piracy will remain as an issue of international concern, Japan is exerting efforts by taking a multi-faceted approach to ensure maritime security and safety of maritime navigation. This includes not only the deployment of Japan Self Defence Forces (JSDF), namely two destroyers and two P-3C maritime patrol aircraft, off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden to address the immediate concern, but also long and mid-term efforts such as assistance for capacity building of coastal countries' capabilities for preventing and suppressing piracy and for regional cooperation, and furthermore, assistance toward the stabilization of the situation in Somalia.

Regarding regional conflicts and civil wars that still prevail around the world, the importance of peacebuilding is increasingly recognized. Peacebuilding is a seamless effort ranging from the promotion of peace processes and emergency humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of conflicts to security maintenance, reconstruction and long term development. In order to build the foundations for sustainable peace and the prevention of recurrence of conflicts, Japan has designated peacebuilding as one of its major diplomatic priorities. To this extent, we are advancing tangible efforts such as contributing to UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) and other organizations, conducting on-site efforts utilizing ODA, making intellectual contributions and fostering human resources.



Coursework of the Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding (February, Hiroshima; photo: Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC))

In terms of terrorism, following the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on September 11, 2001, the international community has designated the countering of terrorism as one of its most urgent priorities and reinforced the development of counter-terrorism measures through multilateral frameworks including the UN and the G8, bilateral cooperation and assistance for security measures in developing countries. As our fundamental policy, Japan refuses to justify or accept terrorism under any circumstance.

With the increased migration of people and sophistication of information technology, transnational organized crimes that transcend borders such as drug trafficking, cyber crimes, and money laundering are developing and further geographically expanding. This is a problem that cannot be managed by one country alone and requires the coordinated efforts of partnerships

between international and regional organizations. Vigorous efforts are being made in this field by institutions such as the UN, the G8 and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and Japan is actively participated in these international undertakings.

Human rights and democracy are universal values. Sufficient development of these foundations in each country contributes to the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous society and therefore to the peace and security of the international community. Japan will strengthen its foreign policy in order to promote human rights and democracy in a comprehensive manner, through the development of human rights and democratic foundations based on development assistance, and by linking efforts in multilateral for a such as the UN related to human rights and democracy, and bilateral efforts including human rights dialogues and development assistance.



Myanmar refugee camp (Thailand)

Furthermore, Japan regards the promotion of the “rule of law” in the international community as one of the major pillars of its diplomatic policies and has actively engaged in various efforts towards this end. The establishment of the “rule of law” in the international community promotes stability of

relations between nations, peaceful settlement of disputes and “good governance” within countries. It is also important for securing territorial and maritime interests of Japan as well as private and corporate activities at the international level.

2. Efforts for Prosperity of Japan and the International Community

The world currently confronts complicated and diverse issues such as poverty, famine, infectious diseases, concerns for the environment and climate and the global economic and financial crisis. Many people face life-threatening crises and poor living standards. Under these circumstances, cooperation

within the international community is becoming increasingly important to realize a world where everyone can live humanely. Therefore, it will be important for Japan to respond to the issues above and contribute to solutions by exerting leadership based on our own past experiences and conceptual planning expertise.



Japan Disaster Relief Team (JDR) working in Indonesia (photo: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA))

In his address at the General Debate of the 64th UN General Assembly in September, Prime Minister Hatoyama discussed the issues of development and poverty and assured that Japan will do its best to act as a bridge between developing and developed countries, saying, “Japan will work in partnership with international organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and strengthen its assistance to developing countries in terms of both quality and quantity. Japan intends to continue and strengthen the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, and redouble its efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the promotion of human security.”

In 2009, Japan contributed to the international community by proactively taking part in the promotion of security for individuals and steadfastly implementing assistance policies for separate fields such as healthcare and education for the achievement of MDGs. In terms of aid for Afghanistan and Pakistan, considered to be one of the most immediate priorities of the international

community, Japan announced in November our New Strategy to assist efforts toward stability in both countries. In regards to aid for Africa, Japan will continue to support the development and growth as well as the peace and stability of Africa through steadfast implementation of commitments such as plans announced during TICAD IV to double ODA to Africa. Concerning our response to the global economic and financial crisis, Japan is providing aid to the developing countries affected by the crisis for the purpose of promoting the recovery and sustainable growth of the Asian and global economy.

In order to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world, Japan will work with international agencies, NGOs and companies and play an active role in efforts to address development in developing countries and issues on a global scale. Specifically, Japan will strengthen efforts to advance human security to achieve the MDGs, assist development in Africa and aid Afghanistan and Pakistan. Moreover, the Ministry will continue to value sympathy toward the people of developing countries who face difficulties due to poverty and other factors, and

work even harder to promote international cooperation based on the approval and support of the people of Japan.

Global environmental issues such as climate change and the loss of biological diversity are a serious threat to both life on earth and the existence of humanity. To counter these threats, Japan has designated efforts for the global environment as a diplomatic priority and is currently supervising worldwide discussions in this field.

Regarding climate change, Prime Minister Hatoyama, at the UN Summit on Climate Change held in September 2009, announced a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020, if compared to the 1990 level, which is premised upon the establishment of a fair and effective international framework by all major economies and agreement on their ambitious targets. The prime minister also announced the "Hatoyama Initiative" as support for developing countries, which successfully boosted the international negotiations on climate change. In December, Japan participated in COP15 and actively called for the establishment of a fair and effective international framework in which all major economies participate, while advancing its partnership with the government of Denmark, presidency of the COP15, enhancing cooperation with the U.S. and other developed countries, and working with developing countries such as China. Furthermore, Prime Minister Hatoyama attended the summit held during the COP15, directly participated in negotiation on climate change, and contributed to establishing the Copenhagen Accord.

As mentioned above, the conservation of biodiversity is also a priority for humanity which must be addressed in an expeditious manner. In 2010, the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10) will be held in Nagoya City of Aichi Prefecture. Japan is prepared to fulfil its responsibilities as the chair and is planning to make principal contributions.

The greatest priority in regards to the global economy in 2009 was overcoming the global economic and financial crisis substantively institutionalized by the "Lehmann Shock" in September 2008. In response to this crisis, the international community recognized the necessity of involving the emergent nations which are gaining stature in the global economy and as a result, the G20 assumed an important role as a forum for

economic policy coordination between the developed and emergent nations. In addition to the G20, Japan is exerting leadership to resolve issues confronting the international community that must be resolved promptly such as climate change, development, food security and energy security, through the G8 which has traditionally been a gathering of developed countries sharing a common awareness of global-scale problems.

The advancement of free trade and investment is indispensable for the economic prosperity of Japan and is an important pillar of our external economic policy. In the field of trade, the legal stability of international trade as well as maintenance and reinforcement of a World Trade Organization (WTO) system that ensures predictability remain important priorities for guiding the global economy to a sustainable recovery. In terms of suppressing protectionism, strong statements cautioning against protection have been conveyed in past summits such as the G20 Summit in London, the G8 Summit in L' Aquila and the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. In regards to the Doha Round of the WTO, political statements calling for a "pursuit of completion of negotiations in 2010" were announced during discussions between heads of state of the G8 and emergent nations at L'Aquila as well as during talks between world leaders of the G20 at Pittsburgh. However, in regards to the benefits and burdens for emergent nations, opposition still remains between the U.S. which desires the further liberalization of trade and countries such as China, Brazil and India which stress the interests of developing countries. Consequently, negotiations are still at a stalemate.

In an effort to supplement the multilateral free trade system based on the WTO, Japan is actively advancing EPAs and FTAs. Regarding EPAs, we are attempting to establish rules not just for liberalization of trade, but for a variety of other fields such as movement of people and liberalization of investment. In 2009, Japan signed EPAs with Vietnam and Switzerland. We are currently advancing talks upon inspection of the status quo with the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), India and Australia, and we began negotiating with Peru in May. Although negotiations with the Republic of Korea have been interrupted, we are conducting working-level discussions to prepare the groundwork for the reopening of negotiations. Furthermore, Japan is actively contributing and participating in research and

discussion concerning frameworks for various types of economic partnerships in East Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. Japan will chair the APEC meeting in 2010, and at the Japan APEC Symposium held last December, Foreign Minister Okada gave a speech which included an explanation of the theme for APEC Japan 2010, "Change and Action". At the same event, experts from the private sector, government and academia debated the Bogor Goal and the future of APEC as well as strategies to enhance the prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region through regional economic integration including plans to establish FTAAP.

Recognizing that the proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods around the world is a threat to the sustainable growth of the global economy, Japan is conducting various bilateral and multilateral efforts to strengthen intellectual property rights. In addition, Japan considers the reinforcement of legal and institutional foundations through tax conventions, investment treaties and social security agreements to be important in terms of assisting Japanese corporations operating abroad and vitalizing the Japanese economy.

Japan depends heavily on imports for energy, minerals, food and other resources that form the basis of the livelihood of the people of Japan and thus the strengthening of economic security is one of our fundamental diplomatic objectives. The paradigm in regards to resources is in a period of

transition due to factors such as the growth of emergent nations and climate change. Under these circumstances, the government of Japan and the private sector must unite in efforts to secure resources for the long-term stability of supply to Japan. In addition it will be necessary to promote international partnerships for responsible resource development and utilization for the entire world. From this perspective, Japan is assuming leadership in this field through activities such as proactively participating in organizations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) which is expected to launch officially in the near future, and sponsorship of the "High-Level Roundtable for Promoting Responsible International Investment in Agriculture."

In dealing with the issues described above such as climate change, the environmental issues, the global economic and financial crisis, and energy sustenance, the international community is looking towards Japanese science and technology with great interest and anticipation. Recognizing science and technology as well as outer space as frontiers and tools of international cooperation, Japan continued to promote "science and technology diplomacy" and "space diplomacy" to pursue synergistic progress between these fields and general diplomatic policy in 2009.



ISS018E044335
Astronaut Wakata working on the International Space Station (photo: NASA/JAXA)

3. Efforts to Promote Understanding and Trust toward Japan

In order to implement foreign policy effectively, in addition to making direct approaches towards policymakers abroad, it is important to promote interest in and form favourable impressions of Japan in the minds of the general public of other countries, who form the base of support for their governments' policies, by providing information and promoting exchanges. The impact of public opinion on foreign policy has been increasing particularly in recent years, in part due to the development of the information and the communication technologies and the establishment of democracy in many countries. Accordingly, the government of Japan works on public relations overseas to promote understanding Japan and her foreign policies among the citizens of foreign countries. The government also makes efforts to convey its multi-faceted appeals and promote cultural exchanges, with a view to enhancing others' images of and strengthening their sense of affinity towards Japan.

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implements measures to promote Japanese language overseas, introduce pop-culture and other Japanese contemporary culture, and communicate Japanese foreign policy towards intellectuals abroad. Besides Japanese language programs offered by the Japan Foundation, the government of Japan dispatched volunteers to four countries in Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania) in January, who engages in Japanese language education and cultural activities at grassroots level under the Japan Culture Volunteers Program. Furthermore, the Ministry assigned young leaders

in the field of fashion as the Trend Communicators of Japanese Pop-Culture (a.k.a. "Kawaii Ambassador") in February and dispatched them to Japanese culture-related events in various countries. In November, the Japan Creative Centre (JCC) was inaugurated in Singapore as a communication hub of Japanese culture. In addition, the Ministry invites to Japan foreign opinion leaders and journalists who have significant influence on international public opinion, as well as individuals abroad who are expected to play leading roles in their respective fields in the future, to foster their better understanding towards Japan. The Ministry also supports the participation of Japanese experts in international conferences and symposia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organizes "Exchange Year" programs to commemorate diplomatic anniversaries with other countries. In 2009, intensive exchange programs were organized with the Mekong region countries as well as with the four countries along the Danube (Austria, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria), since 2009 was designated as the Mekong-Japan Exchange Year and as the Japan-Danube Friendship Year respectively. With regard to developing countries, Japan provides cultural grant assistance, while actively supporting the preservation and restoration of cultural heritages and capacity-building, as well as making intellectual contributions towards establishing frameworks for international cooperation and standard-setting in the field of culture, through cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other organizations.



Gagaku, one of the oldest performing arts in Japan, encompasses ancient Japanese music and dance such as Azumaasobi, instrumental music and ceremonial dance introduced from the Asian continent after 6th century, and vocal music composed in Heian-era (8-12th century) such as Saibara or Rouei. Gagaku continues to be transmitted mainly in the Imperial Palace.