

## Section 2

# Japan's International Cooperation (Development Cooperation and Response to Global Issues)

### 1 Development Cooperation (ODA, etc.)

#### (1) Development Cooperation Charter and Strategic Use of ODA

More than 65 years have passed since Japan started its Official Development Assistance (ODA)<sup>1</sup> in 1954. Japan's development cooperation policy including ODA has greatly contributed to securing the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community and consequently the national interests of Japan for many years.

On the other hand, the world is facing more diverse and complex challenges transcending national borders as the world becomes increasingly globalized. Furthermore, considering the growing roles of recent non-ODA public/private funds and support from emerging countries, it has become even more important to bring together the wisdom and actions of developing countries as well as developed countries and various resources apart from the government (corporations, local governments, NGOs, etc.). In this new era, it is essential for ensuring Japan's national interests that Japan should consider development cooperation as a part of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, and strategically use ODA to address development and human rights issues while continuing to

adhere to the course that Japan has taken to date as a peace-loving nation. Under the Development Cooperation Charter established based on this recognition (decided by the Cabinet in February 2015), there is a need to steadily implement the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," the development goals for the whole international community, including developed countries. It is also necessary to put unremitting efforts into reviewing the approach to the implementation of ODA, so as to enable diverse entities including NGOs and corporations from the private sector, to put greater effort into resolving development issues. On top of that, it remains vital to establish a fully adequate system, including measures for the outbreak of infectious diseases, in order to secure the safety of Japanese people engaged in international cooperation abroad.

For Japan, development cooperation is one of the most important diplomatic tools. For 2019, in particular, Japan advanced cooperation with various countries that leverages ODA with a view to achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific." It also reaffirmed at the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting in May continued bilateral cooperation to this end. With the vast demand for infrastructure in today's world, it is vital in developing infrastructure to secure openness, transparency, economic

<sup>1</sup> Official Development Assistance ODA: For details on Japan's international cooperation, refer to "White Paper on Development Cooperation: Japan's International Cooperation."

efficiency, and debt sustainability, the elements which were included in the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment endorsed by the leaders at the G20 Osaka Summit under Japan's Presidency in June, and to spread and put these into practice as international standards. Japan will continue to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community while actively making use of ODA and developing quality infrastructure.

The revitalization of Japan's economy through the growth of developing countries and its growth alongside these countries is also an important issue for Japan's national interest. As described in the "Infrastructure Systems Export Strategy" (revised in June 2019) and the "Follow-up on the Growth Strategy 2019" (revised in June 2019), it is necessary to utilize ODA strategically in order to further promote the overseas expansion of Japanese companies.

Such efforts by Japan have won both high praise and trust from the international community. It is important that Japan continues and strengthens its efforts in the future so that Japan can lead the international community as a major responsible country in the world and ensure that the international environment and order are in line with Japan's national interests.

## (2) The Current Status of ODA

### **A** FY2019 Priority Policy for Development Cooperation

From the perspective of "Proactive Contribution to Peace" based on the principle of international cooperation, development cooperation is one of the most important tools toward further contributing to securing the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community, and promoting Japan's diplomatic policies. With the aim of promoting strategic and effective development cooperation based on the Development Cooperation Charter, the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs (MOFA) has positioned the following (items (A) to (C)) as priority issues for FY2019, and tackles these challenges while strengthening cooperation with various entities.

#### **(A) Achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP)**

Japan is promoting infrastructure assistance, both in the "hard" aspect such as ports, railways, and roads, and in the "soft" aspect such as systems and standards as well as technological and operational expertise. This aims to help achieve a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" with stronger regional connectivity and a foundation for region-wide, self-sustained economic development. Also, Japan is promoting cooperation aimed at helping strengthen rule-based international order. This includes provision of equipment to countries for their capacity building in the areas of maritime law enforcement and Maritime Domain Awareness.

#### **(B) Addressing global challenges**

Japan will promote cooperation toward achieving the SDGs based on the concept of human security, in fields such as health, food, nutrition, women (gender), education, disaster risk reduction, water and hygiene, and climate change and global environmental issues. Japan will work on developing leaders in the field of development while utilizing collaboration with the JICA Development Studies Program,<sup>2</sup> from the perspective of fostering the circle of people with great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan and contributing intellectually to international development. Japan will also promote visible development cooperation by strengthening international cooperation NGOs. In addition, Japan will promote humanitarian aid including support for refugees, peacebuilding, and nation-building, while taking into consideration the perspective of responding

<sup>2</sup> A program which invites future leaders from partner countries to Japan, and offers the opportunity to learn about Japan's modernization and development experiences, which differ from those of Europe and the U.S., and its wisdom as a country that provided cooperation toward the progress of developing countries after World War II.

to humanitarian crises through a humanitarian-development nexus approach.

### (C) Diplomatic efforts that boost the Japanese economy

In order to realize greater overseas expansion of Japan's cutting-edge technology, in addition to promoting the acquisition of business rights and operation rights of Japanese corporations through means such as the provision of grant aid for public projects implemented through public-private partnership, Japan will also promote technical cooperation that contributes to quality infrastructure investment, such as trade facilitation and securing debt sustainability. As for efforts toward the overseas expansion of local governments as well as private-sector corporations including SMEs, Japan will strive to create sustained demand and raise the profile and visibility of products and equipment that can contribute to resolving the issues faced by developing countries, through the provision of such products and equipment. At the same time, it will promote support for overseas expansion by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in the construction industry, including in local regions. Through human resource development, Japan will also contribute to advancing the improvement of the business environment, thereby promoting investment and overseas expansion by corporations.

### **B** Safety Measures for Personnel Engaged in International Cooperation Projects

A terrorist attack occurred in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, in July 2016. Seven Japanese engaged in ODA lost their lives and one Japanese was injured in the attack. The Government of Japan is determined to never give in to terrorism

and to continue supporting developing countries. The international terrorism situation is becoming increasingly severe. It is vital to establish a system for ensuring utmost preparedness in order to ensure the safety of Japanese personnel engaged in international cooperation abroad.

The Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects was established under MOFA from the standpoint of such awareness. After five meetings with participation from many relevant ministries and agencies, the Council published its final report at the end of August 2016, which sets forth new safety measures for personnel engaged in international cooperation projects. The final report covered the safety measures that MOFA and JICA should take together with the relevant parties. Five pillars of the measures are following: (1) strengthening collection, analysis and sharing of threat information; (2) code of conduct of partners and NGOs; (3) physical/non-physical protective measures and strengthening training and drills; (4) crisis response; and (5) heightening crisis management awareness and improving the organizational structure of MOFA and JICA. These measures of the final report have been steadily implemented by MOFA and JICA since then.

As a responsible major power, Japan will continue to ensure the safety of its personnel, while contributing proactively to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the international community through international cooperation.

### **(3) Japan's Development Cooperation Performance and Approaches to Major Regions**

#### **A** Japan's ODA Performance

In 2018, Japan provided approximately 14.16 billion US dollars in ODA,<sup>3</sup> based on the grant

<sup>3</sup> The main forms of ODA from Japan are: grant aid, namely, bilateral fund donations; loan aid, namely, loan for development in developing regions; technical cooperation; and donations or contributions to international organizations. Of these, loan aid accounts for the largest percentage. Loan aid is typically repaid with interest.

equivalent (GE) system<sup>4</sup> newly introduced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) as the standard method for calculating ODA. Japan ranks fourth among the member states of the DAC, following the U.S., Germany, and the UK. The ODA/GNI ratio based on the GE system was 0.28%, placing Japan in 16th place among member states of the DAC. In terms of net disbursements,<sup>5</sup> Japan's ODA fell by 6.6% year-on-year to approximately 17.25 billion US dollars, once again ranking fourth after the U.S., Germany, and the UK.

## B Approaches to Major Regions

### (A) Southeast Asia

The peace, stability, and prosperity in the Southeast Asian region are important to Japan, which has a close relationship with the region. Japan has helped the region to resolve various development issues including poverty reduction, by promoting economic growth and human security through development cooperation, and contributed to the development of the region.

Approximately 56.5% of the total bilateral ODA of Japan went to the Asia region in 2018. A large portion of it comprised of support for Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Japan not only provides support toward efforts aimed at overcoming issues faced by ASEAN and further promoting integration, but also places a strong emphasis on support for the building of quality infrastructure and training of industrial human resources to strengthen regional connectivity and industrial foundation development. Specifically, Japan has steadily been implementing projects that contribute to improving connectivity in the ASEAN countries,

such as the Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project (Phase 1 section commenced operation in March 2019) in the Jakarta Special Capital Region of Indonesia. This project contributed to the easing of heavy traffic in this region, which faces the problem of serious traffic congestion. Furthermore, based on the Industrial Human Resource Development Cooperation Initiative 2.0 announced in November 2018, Japan is promoting the development of approximately 80,000 industrial human resources who will take on the responsibilities of establishing and advancing key industries in ASEAN countries. In Thailand, Japan is engaged in cooperation toward the establishment of Kosen schools (Colleges of Technology), which is an educational institution unique to the Japanese education system, and the implementation of technical education at a level that is on par with Japan.

Japan is also advancing cooperation to support initiatives aimed at strengthening the centrality and unity of ASEAN. In May, Japan signed the Japan-ASEAN Technical Cooperation Agreement, and implemented the project of Training in Cybersecurity for ASEAN countries based on the agreement. Furthermore, in order to meet the



Opening ceremony for Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project (Phase 1), and the groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 2 (March, Indonesia; Photo: JICA)

<sup>4</sup> The Grant Equivalent (GE) system calculates ODA loans based on the amount that is equivalent to the grant. The GE is calculated by applying the terms of the loan, such as amount disbursed, interest rate, and maturity, to a formula. The softer the terms of the loan are, the larger the amount will be. Compared to the net flow system (the full amount of loan disbursement is included, but the amount repaid is calculated as a negative figure) that has conventionally been used as the standard method of the OECD/DAC, the GE system reflects Japan's loan aid more accurately.

<sup>5</sup> The total amount Japan contributed as ODA during the year in question (without deductions of amounts repaid by the beneficiary country to Japan during the year in question for loans borrowed in the past)

massive demand for development funds in the ASEAN region, Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of the Initiative on Overseas Loan and Investment for ASEAN at the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting (Thailand) in November. To materialize the initiative, Foreign Minister Motegi announced in December that the initiative aimed at mobilizing 3 billion US dollars from public and private sectors over next three years (2020 to 2022), including through a total of 1.2 billion US dollars overseas loan and investment for ASEAN by JICA in the fields of quality infrastructure development, improving financial access and supporting women, and green investment.

Japan is also actively providing support for capacity building for maritime law enforcement to ASEAN countries positioned along Japan's sea lanes such as the Philippines and Viet Nam, with the aim of building the free and open international

order. Such efforts include providing equipment such as patrol vessels and coastal monitoring radars, as well as human resource development through the long-term dispatch of experts. In addition, Japan is providing consistent support to eradicate domestic and regional disparity, and support for the creation of a sustainable society in areas such as disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change, and energy. Japan aims to strengthen Japan-ASEAN cooperation, including through the pursuit of synergies between “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” and the “ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).”

At the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in November, the leaders confirmed the progress of “Tokyo Strategy 2018,” the guideline for cooperation between Japan and the Mekong region, and adopted the “Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030.” Under this initiative, Japan announced that it would prioritize the following three areas of cooperation: (i) environmental and urban issues; (ii) sustainable natural resource management and utilization; and, (iii) inclusive growth. Japan has also been working on projects such as the development of Sihanoukville port in Cambodia and the reconstruction of the bridges on the National Road No. 9 in Laos, and will continue to contribute to enhancing connectivity in the Mekong region under “Tokyo Strategy 2018.”

### (B) Southwest Asia

Southwest Asia holds strategic importance as a marine transportation hub that connects East Asia with the Middle East, and is also a region with immense economic potential, such as India, where economic growth and massive infrastructural demand are anticipated in the future. On the other hand, the region is still faced with by many unresolved issues such as undeveloped infrastructure, poverty, and natural disasters. Japan provides a range of assistance through ODA to assist the region in overcoming these challenges, bearing in mind the improvement of the investment environment for Japanese companies, and



Ceremony for the handing over of 15m-class high-speed boat to the Philippine Coast Guard (November 11, Philippines)



Foreign Minister Motegi inspecting the Port of Colombo in Sri Lanka, which Japan has been providing infrastructural development support for (December 13, Sri Lanka)

ensuring human security.

In recent years, India has been the largest recipient of Japanese yen loans. In addition to providing support for the development of economic and social infrastructure in India, including in the areas of electricity and transportation that contribute to enhancing connectivity and strengthening industrial competitiveness, Japan has also provided support for the realization of sustainable and inclusive growth, such as implementing projects in the forestry sector that serve afforestation and the improvement of livelihoods, as well as projects in the health sector that help improve health and medical services for women and children.

With regard to Bangladesh, Japan is actively offering cooperation under the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative,<sup>6</sup> in areas such as developing economic infrastructure, strengthening connectivity, and improving the investment environment. A large-scale influx of displaced persons over a short period of time from northern Rakhine State, Myanmar, has resulted in the deterioration of humanitarian situations in camps for displaced persons and has also had a severe impact on the living environment of the surrounding host communities. In response to this situation, Japan provided support through

international organizations and NGOs in the areas of water and hygiene, health and medical care, education, and environmental conservation.

With the inauguration of the new Rajapaksa administration in Sri Lanka in November, Foreign Minister Motegi held meetings with the new administration including a foreign ministers' meeting, whereupon he affirmed the strengthening of bilateral relations, and the promotion of cooperation toward the achievement of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" in areas such as maritime safety and infrastructural development. In response to the series of terrorist bombings that occurred in Sri Lanka in April, Japan expressed its support for capacity building in the fields of counter-terrorism and security measures, such as the decision to provide counter-terrorism and security equipment under a grant aid programme.

### (C) Pacific Island Countries (PICs)

In addition to being Japan's neighbors connected by the Pacific, the PICs also share deep historical ties with Japan. Moreover, as these countries possess a vast exclusive economic zone (EEZ, or waters over which a country's economic rights extends), they are a key region for Japan's maritime transportation, and provide vital fishing grounds for Japan's bonito and tuna distant-water fisheries. As such, the stability and prosperity of the PICs are also of great importance to Japan.

The PICs share common issues that are unique to their region, such as smaller economies that are dependent upon primary industries, territories that are scattered over a wide ocean area, difficulty in breaking into the international market, and vulnerability to damages from natural disasters. In light of these circumstances, Japan, as a good partner of the PICs, is providing support to boost their autonomous and sustainable development.

The 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) was held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture,

<sup>6</sup> A vision aimed at cooperation between Japan and Bangladesh with a view to the development of economic infrastructure, improving the investment environment, and enhancing connectivity, focused on the region connecting the capital Dhaka and Chittagong in the south.



Development of the Pacific Climate Change Center as a hub for work on climate change measures for the Pacific Island Countries (Samoa; Photo: JICA)

in May 2018. With the pillars of (i) free, open, and sustainable oceans; (ii) strengthening the foundations for resilient and sustainable development, and (iii) revitalization of people-to-people exchanges, and based on the achievement so far, Japan announced its commitment to continuing robust development assistance as before in keeping with the achievement so far. Japan also announced to further strengthen human resource development and exchanges (5,000 people over a three-year period), which are the foundation for growth and prosperity. The Interagency Committee for the Promotion of Cooperation with Pacific Island Countries determined the basic policy of reinforcing and concentrating resources for the PICs and strengthening initiatives with “All Japan” efforts. Based on the basic policy, Japan is implementing concrete initiatives such as bilateral development assistance on basic infrastructure such as ports and airports as well as technical cooperation targeting multiple countries in areas such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), disaster risk reduction, waste management that contributes to measures against marine plastic litter, and climate change issues.

#### (D) Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region with which Japan has enjoyed friendly relations for a long time. The region also has deep historical ties with Japan, as demonstrated by the fact

that more than 2 million Japanese descendants, known as “Nikkei,” reside in the region. The region is a major supplier of resources and food, as well as a potential emerging market with gross regional production exceeding 5 trillion US dollars. On the other hand, as many countries in the region are still confronted by problems such as income inequality within country, poverty in rural and mountainous regions, and natural disasters, Japan is engaged in various cooperative efforts while also taking into account the characteristics of each country in the Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specifically, Japan has provided support to Cuba to improve power supply in the Isle of Youth, the country’s largest offshore island, and to increase the percentage of renewable energy out of total power generated. It has also provided public buses as a part of efforts to improve public transportation services in the Province of Havana in Cuba. With regard to Honduras, Japan provides made-in-Japan equipment to obtain agricultural water, with a view to securing water resources and developing water storage functions in order to address the increasingly severe droughts caused by prolonged dry seasons.

As for other Caribbean countries, Japan has decided to provide support to the Commonwealth of Dominica through the rehabilitation of fishery buildings that were damaged by hurricanes, as well as the exchange and update of related equipment. In addition, Japan has decided to provide fishery-related equipment and maritime safety equipment under grant aid programmes to Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and Jamaica. Japan also signed an Exchange of Notes with Haiti in March and November respectively to provide government-controlled rice (approximately 6,000 tons) to the people of Haiti who are in need of food and nutrition as the country continues to be confronted by the serious problem of hunger.

The recent economic and social turmoil in Venezuela has led to an influx of about 4.8 million



Signing ceremony for the exchange of notes on grant aid aimed at providing assistance for measures against drought (April 3, Honduras)

Venezuelan refugees and migrants into neighboring countries by December. This has in turn contributed to the deterioration of the living environment for residents in the host communities, as well as instability in the region, and response to the issue has not been sufficient. To support the neighboring countries, Japan, in cooperation with international organizations (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)), has carried out cooperation projects with Brazil and Colombia in June and July respectively to strengthen registration and protection systems. Japan also exchanged notes with Ecuador in November to provide food such as wheat in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP).

#### (E) Central Asia and Caucasus

Central Asia and Caucasus are surrounded by Russia, China, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. The stability and development of this region are important for the whole of Eurasia, including Japan. Japan supports the “open, stable, and self-sustained” development of Central Asia and the Caucasus region, and upholds the ideal of Japanese diplomacy that contributes to regional and international peace and stability. Japan supports nation building that allows fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, market economy, and the rule of law to take root for long-term stability and sustainable development in this region, while also taking into account

broad-based views covering neighboring regions including Afghanistan and Pakistan.

When Foreign Minister Kono attended the Seventh Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue held in Tajikistan in May, he spoke about cooperating in a way that strengthens the resilience of infrastructure and connectivity of the region through a uniquely Japanese approach, such as through human resource development. He also pointed out that from the perspectives of global challenges such as the fight against terrorism and counter-narcotics measures, the stability of Central Asia and Afghanistan is closely linked to the security of the entire international community, and that regional cooperation to address these challenges is indispensable. Based on this recognition, he expressed that the Government of Japan would continue to provide support to Central Asia and Afghanistan in areas such as improving border management.

#### (F) The Middle East

Securing peace and stability in the Middle East and North Africa regions, which are key geopolitical regions, is crucial not only for the energy security of Japan but also for the stability of the world. From these standpoints, Japan has provided comprehensive support till 2018 at a sum of about 6 billion US dollars to stabilize the Middle East, including human resource development for about 20,000 people, as it announced at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit (2016), with a view to achieving peace and stability in the region. Thereafter, Japan is still continuing to provide support to the Middle East.

With regard to Syria, where civil war has been prolonged, in 2019, Japan provided assistance of approximately 12 million US dollars in support of women and children, who are the most vulnerable in a conflict, as well as support for the health sector. This was used in the East Aleppo region to rehabilitate pediatric hospitals damaged in the conflict, and to bring about the early recovery of community healthcare and medical services in

the same region. In December, Japan decided to provide support of 14 million US dollars toward the humanitarian crisis in north-eastern Syria, in the areas of water, hygiene, health, and relief supplies, among others. Furthermore, in order to foster human resources who can contribute to Syria's reconstruction in the future, 79 Syrian students have been accepted in Japan since 2017.

In order to provide support for strengthening the stability of Jordan, which is receiving many Syrian refugees, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato Masahisa announced, at the "Jordan Support Conference" held in February, that Japan will be providing support up to a maximum of 730 million US dollars over the next five years, including a development policy loan of 300 million US dollars that was signed in November last year. In July, the two countries signed and exchanged notes on a grant aid for the enhancement of customs security. At the summit meeting between Prime Minister Abe and His Majesty King Abdullah, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in September, the latter expressed his gratitude for the wide range of cooperation that Japan has offered to Jordan to date.

Based on the Corridor for Peace and Prosperity initiative that is implemented through cooperation between Japan, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan with the aim of promoting economic and social development for Palestine, Japan is engaged in efforts to develop the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP). At a meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President Abbas of Palestine in October, President Abbas expressed his appreciation for the great support that Japan has given to Palestine.

Human resource development is vital to realize stability in the Middle East in the medium- to long-term. Japan commenced the technical cooperation project, Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) Project Phase 3, in Egypt from February, and is providing support for the development of industrial human resources as well as science and technology human resources in Egypt, the Middle East, and the Africa region. At

the Japan-Egypt Summit Meeting held in August, President El-Sisi expressed his appreciation for Japan's cooperation to date.

In Yemen, where the crisis is still ongoing, Japan continues to cooperate with international organizations to provide humanitarian support such as food aid. In Afghanistan, to support the reconstruction effort by the government, Japan is providing assistance to encourage the growth of a self-reliant economy and poverty reduction in the country. In 2019, Japan again decided to provide support to Afghanistan in cooperation with international organizations, in areas such as enhancing literacy among adults.

### (G) Africa

Africa has been gradually recovering from the economic depression caused by the rapid drop in natural resource prices around 2014, and backed by its abundant natural resources and a rapidly growing population, continues to attract the attention and anticipation of the international community for its potential. Japan has been leading the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process for a quarter of a century since 1993, aiming at further strengthening relations between Japan and Africa. The TICAD process has been highly appraised by African countries.

TICAD7 was held in August, with more than 10,000 participants including 42 state leaders from 53 African countries, 52 development partner countries, and 108 heads of international and regional organizations, as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society such as NGOs.

The adopted outcome document, "Yokohama Declaration 2019," affirmed priority areas for the realization of Africa's inclusive and sustainable development under the three pillars of TICAD7, Economy, Society, and Peace and Security. Japan will continue to contribute to the growth of Africa through the effective use of ODA, among others, based on the three pillars of TICAD7.



Technical cooperation project in Ghana, "Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the introduction of combined MCH Record Book" (2018-2021) (Photo: JICA)

For example, in the pillar of Economy, Japan will expand efforts to foster industrial human resources through the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE initiative) 3.0 and other means, in order to contribute to the promotion of African businesses. The ABE Initiative provides opportunities for youths in Africa to study at graduate schools in Japan and participate in internships in Japanese companies. Since TICAD V (2013), Japan has accepted more than 1,200 trainees through JICA. At TICAD7, Japan announced that it would be fostering 3,000 industrial human resources over a six-year period. Furthermore, with a view to strengthening connectivity, Japan will also promote investment in quality infrastructure with a focus on the three priority regions (East Africa Northern Corridor, Nacala Corridor, and West Africa Growth Ring). For example, in September, the signing and exchange of notes on ODA loans and grant aid took place for the development of the Mombasa region in Kenya, which will contribute to the development of the East Africa Northern Corridor.

In the pillar of Society, Japan will further promote initiatives toward expanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC). It will improve access to primary healthcare and hygiene environment for 3 million people, as well as enable widespread health insurance. For example, technical cooperation projects are being implemented in

Ghana (Project for Improving Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the introduction of combined MCH Record Book) and Kenya (Partnership for Health Systems Strengthening in Africa (PHSSA) Phase 2). In addition, Japan will provide quality education to 3 million children through measures such as science and mathematics education, and the improvement of the learning environment.

In the pillar of Peace and Security, Japan will provide support for institution building and governance strengthening in Africa through human resource development and the provision of security equipment such as border control equipment, under the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) (see Chapter 2, Section 7(1)). In November, Japan decided to provide support in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with the goal of facilitating trade in Eastern Africa and building border control capacity.

#### (4) Approaches to Appropriate and Effective Implementation of ODA

##### A Approaches to Appropriate Implementation of ODA

In the implementation of ODA, efforts are made to enhance transparency and quality by exchanging views with external experts at each phase and formulating projects based on these discussions. In the phase of preliminary studies in the implementation of ODA, MOFA holds the Development Project Accountability Committee in public, exchanges views with independent committee members that have knowledge of the relevant field, and affirms the validity of the project. Furthermore, JICA publishes ex-post evaluation results for all projects valued at 200 million Japanese yen or more (4,547 projects published as of the end of 2019) on the "ODA Mieru-ka Site" after the implementation of the projects in view of enhancing the transparency of the projects. Ex-post evaluations for projects valued at 1 billion Japanese yen or more are also conducted

## Column

## The Achievements of Ms. Ogata Sadako: The “Five-Foot Giant”

On October 22, the world was engulfed by grief at the passing of a great leader in the field of international cooperation. Ms. Ogata Sadako had successively held key positions throughout her exceptional career, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), demonstrating excellent leadership on the frontlines of the fight to resolve global issues such as refugee crisis, poverty, and conflicts.

In 1991, she became the first Japanese to be appointed as the High Commissioner of the UNHCR. Throughout her ten-year tenure, she made many historical decisions that became turning points for the agency. A little more than two months after her appointment, a situation arose in which 400,000 Iraqi Kurds were forced to evacuate but were unable to cross the border and became stranded in Iraq. In light of the situation, she took the resolute decision to expand the mandate of UNHCR to extend protection not only to refugees who had crossed the border but also to internally displaced persons.



Ms. Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), visiting a foster home in Burundi (Photo: UNHCR/Paul Stromberg)

Ms. Ogata had also been known as the “Five-Foot Giant” for the respect that she inspired through her ability to take actions and her decisiveness in promoting support toward self-reliance through a humanitarian development nexus.

A refugee at the Gihembe Refugee Camp in Rwanda, managed by the UNHCR, named her daughter after Ms. Ogata. In this way, Ms. Ogata still lives on among the people even today.

From 2001, Ms. Ogata took on heavy responsibilities as Japan led the international community in providing assistance to Afghanistan. For example, she served as the co-chair and as Special Representative of the Government of Japan on Reconstruction Assistance at the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan held in Tokyo. She also visited Afghanistan many times in person and exerted her best efforts toward building a new nation, such as by setting out Japan's support measures. These measures, known as the “Ogata Initiative,” aim to provide seamless support from humanitarian aid to recovery and reconstruction. Leading figures around the world have expressed their heartfelt respect and profound gratitude to Ms. Ogata at the news of her passing. Among these, many senior government officials from Afghanistan, including former President Karzai and incumbent President Ghani, offered their condolences.

Thereafter, Ms. Ogata was appointed as the President of JICA in 2003, where she demonstrated her characteristic leadership and built the foundations for present-day JICA, which has grown to be the world's largest bilateral aid agency. Once again, she advocated a hands-on approach to assistance. During her term, she made close to 100 business trips in and out of Japan, and took the lead in putting human security into practice. Her unprecedented stance on human security—to realize freedom from fear and privation through the protection of individuals and empowerment, and for individuals to pursue the right to live with happiness and dignity—has left a deep imprint on the UN and around the world. Ms. Ogata also put effort into supporting peacebuilding and reconstruction, and had worked tirelessly to enable assistance in the immediate aftermath of conflicts in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Sudan, as it had previously been difficult to include people of such countries in the scope



Ms. Ogata, President of JICA, visiting a school at the Palestinian refugee camp in Aleppo, Syria (Photo: JICA)

of development projects. Moreover, she also poured her energy into strengthening support for Africa. During her term of office lasting eight and a half years, the percentage of technical cooperation and grant aid provided to Africa increased by approximately three times.

Over the years, Ms. Ogata had made significant contributions to peace, stability, and development in the world. Throughout this time, her strong leadership and decisiveness, as well as her approach of listening to the voices of the people facing difficulties, touched the hearts of many people. Today, the concepts of “human security” and “hands-on approach” that she had developed continue to be passed on not only in Japan, but also widely across the international community as important principles in development assistance and humanitarian aid.

### Column

## Responding to the Largest Postwar Humanitarian Crisis

Currently, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) has risen to the highest level since World War II, to approximately 70 million people, and the humanitarian crisis that is arising as a result of conflicts and natural disasters is becoming increasingly complex and prolonged. In cooperation with international organizations, Japan is providing efficient and sustainable assistance to meet the growing needs for humanitarian aid through the development of innovative technology and cooperation with the private sector, including universities and corporations.

### **Innovative initiative by ICRC: Technological development for landmine and unexploded ordnance disposal**

Regis Savioz

Head of Delegation in Japan, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Explosive remnants such as landmines and unexploded ordnance give rise to casualties among civilians, destroy means of livelihood and services that are indispensable for everyday life, and obstruct the repair of infrastructure and humanitarian aid activities. As such, they continue to have severe humanitarian impacts over several decades after a conflict. The Weapon Contamination Unit of the ICRC has established the goals of providing support to victims, ensuring the safety of ICRC staff, and engaging in existing assistance and protection activities. To that end, it has formulated strategies for the prevention and mitigation of crises caused by explosive remnants and is engaged in related activities.

In November 2018, ICRC concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Waseda University and launched a joint project that aims at developing solutions for the humanitarian sector by using innovative technology. In August 2019, at the TICAD7 conference, Waseda University and ICRC jointly organized a public seminar. Titled “Building a Better World Through Business – Challenges in Humanitarian Assistance in Africa and the Role of Private Sector,” the seminar discussed the projects with the greatest needs as well as the challenges faced in the frontlines of humanitarian aid. Furthermore, in the field of detection and disposal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, experts from the ICRC Weapon Contamination Unit and Waseda University are currently engaged in a research project on the utilization of a thermal image detection system operated from air using a drone. As no innovative solution has yet been found for this field to date, ICRC is conducting testing and verification on the possibility of applying newly developed technologies not only to activities related to the detection and disposal of explosive remnants, but also to a wider range of projects in the humanitarian sector.



Drone used for demonstration experiment for the acquisition and analysis of thermal images of landmines and unexploded ordnance

In recent years, cooperation with the private sector, with a particular focus on humanitarian aid, has been advancing in various fields. The ICRC delegation in Japan has also been putting effort into academia-industry collaboration in Japan and is anticipating the participation of private-sector corporations in the abovementioned project in the future.

#### Providing sustainable employment support to the youth through cooperation with private-sector corporations

Sato Mio

Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Japan

In recent years, diverse actors with a wide range of experience, knowledge, and skills, have been active on the sites of humanitarian aid to fulfill their respective missions. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with its reliable partners, is also engaged in ongoing efforts to deliver support that best meets the needs and situation of each individual site more effectively. In Sierra Leone, where unemployment rates have remained at a high level even after the end of civil war in 2002, IOM, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, is providing various forms of support to young people who are choosing to migrate as irregular workers to other countries, so as to help them gain employment in their own country. As a part of this support, for example, in cooperation with Japanese corporations that operate fruit processing plants (processed fruit is a specialty of Sierra Leone), preparations are underway for the implementation of vocational training that is aligned with the needs of the local job market. By combining, at an appropriate timing, the knowledge that corporations have of the local job environment, with the knowledge that IOM has accumulated through the assistance it has provided to date as well as the information it has obtained about the needs of young people, IOM provides continual support to ensure that vocational training increases the possibility of future employment. By improving the stability of the living environment for young people and their families, we also anticipate the creation of a virtuous cycle for the communities that they live in. At the same time, we aim to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by cooperating with local private-sector partners to provide support that realizes a society where no one, including the youth, is left behind.



Scene of the completion ceremony for young people who have attended the entrepreneurship training implemented with support from Japan (Sierra Leone)

by third parties. MOFA primarily conducts third-party evaluations at policy level such as country assistance evaluation, thematic evaluation, and aid modality evaluation. With regard to grant aid projects implemented by MOFA, internal ex-post evaluations are carried out for projects over 200 million Japanese yen or more, while third-party ex-post evaluations are conducted for projects over 1 billion Japanese yen or more. Efforts are made to apply the lessons drawn from the results of such ex-post evaluation to the policy formulation and project implementation of future ODA. From the perspective of fulfilling accountability, MOFA also publishes the evaluation reports on

MOFA's website.

#### **B** Approaches to Effective Implementation of ODA

ODA is implemented through three frameworks corresponding to the needs of the partner country and the scale of the project: grant aid, loan aid, and technical cooperation. In order to utilize the limited budget efficiently and achieve a high level of development, MOFA and JICA take into account the needs of the partner country, draw up a development cooperation policy for each country, and formulate projects while going beyond the boundaries of each framework. For

example, while Senegal has begun to formulate a national strategy for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and to promote the establishment of coverage for medical care (community health insurance and free medical care policy), it faces various technical and financial issues. In light of that, Japan is providing support toward policymaking in the area of UHC and strengthening administrative capacity through technical cooperation. At the same time, it is also providing financial support toward the materialization of the relevant policies by providing policy loans aimed at achieving UHC. Furthermore, comprehensive support is also provided on initiatives by the Senegal Government to achieve UHC, such as efforts to procure medical equipment through grant aid.

### C Efforts with regard to International Discussions on ODA

Japan also contributes actively to international discussions on ODA. The OECD/DAC is advancing efforts to modernize ODA, including changing the ODA calculation rules for ODA loans, and efforts to promote the mobilization of private-sector funds. Japan also strives to ensure that ODA is aligned with the modern times, and that efforts by donors are reflected accurately. Japan has also contributed actively to discussions on the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus, as well as ending sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

From 2019 to 2020, Development Co-operation Peer Review for Japan, which is to review policies, systems, budgets, and other elements of Japan's development cooperation by other DAC members, is being conducted for the first time in six years. Through the review process, Japan shares its strengths with other members and aims to contribute to discussions on better approaches to development cooperation.

### D Efforts toward Promoting Understanding of ODA

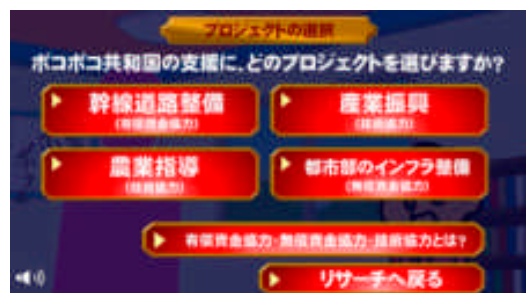
It is vital to have the understanding and support of the people when implementing development cooperation. To that end, efforts are made to promote understanding among the citizens through the effective dissemination of information. In addition to engaging in publicity activities through events that the public participates in, such as Global Festa Japan 2019, Japan's largest international cooperation event held in Odaiba, Tokyo in September, and the One World Festival held in Osaka in February, MOFA is also putting effort into introducing Japan's development cooperation



Global Festa Japan 2019 (September, Tokyo)



"Save the World Through ODA": ODA publicity short animation, "Go! ODA-Man" based on the popular anime "Eagle Talon"



Simulation game "You can be an ODA-Man too!"

activities around the world in an easy-to-understand manner through the production of the short animation series “Go! ODA-Man” based on the popular anime “Eagle Talon,” and the simulation game “You can be an ODA-Man too!” This short animation series is available to the public through MOFA’s YouTube account, and is also broadcast on trains such as JR and Tokyo Metro with the aim of reaching a wide audience. MOFA also dispatches officials to educational institutions and other organizations, and actively conducts “ODA Delivery Lectures” as a part of its efforts to promote understanding of development cooperation.

Furthermore, based on the Development Cooperation Charter, which declares enhanced efforts for overseas publicity, MOFA plans tours to its development cooperation project sites for the local media so that they will also cover Japan’s cooperation, and issues PR pamphlets and materials in English and local languages.

## 2 Response to Global Issues

### (1) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda)” is a set of international development goals to be achieved by 2030, which was adopted by the UN Summit in September 2015 as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) formulated in 2001. The 2030 Agenda sets out the international development goal of realizing a society that is sustainable, diverse, and inclusive, and where “no one is left behind,” by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda lists the “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets that are interrelated and closely linked to each other, and which serve as development goals for the whole of the international community including developed countries.

After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Japan first built a foundation for the implementation of the SDGs by establishing the SDGs Promotion

Headquarters headed by the Prime Minister and composed of all cabinet ministers as members, formulating the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles that set out Japan’s medium- to long-term strategy toward the achievement of the SDGs, and establishing eight priority areas that Japan will place particular focus on. Furthermore, Japan puts great importance on public-private partnership for the implementation of the SDGs, and has to date held nine Round Table Meetings on the promotion of the SDGs, bringing together stakeholders from a wide range of fields including the private sector, civil society, experts, and international organizations. It also engages in the exchange of views on initiatives by local governments and businesses toward the promotion of the SDGs, measures for the empowerment of women and the next generation, and strengthening cooperation with the international community.

To date, eight meetings of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters have been held. At the eighth meeting held in December 2019, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles were revised for the first time in three years since their formulation in 2016, based on the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit and the SDG Summit 2019, as well as the recommendations by members of the Round Table Meetings and all stakeholders. In addition, the key initiatives of MOFA and the relevant government ministries and agencies toward the achievement of the SDGs were published in the SDGs Action Plan 2020. This Action Plan sets out three pillars for Japan’s SDGs: (i) business and innovation; (ii) regional revitalization; and, (iii) empowerment of the next generation and women. In line with these, Japan will further promote efforts toward the achievement of the SDGs in both the aspects of domestic implementation and international cooperation.

On the same day as the eighth meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, the conferment ceremony for the third Japan SDGs Award was held to commend companies and organizations that have put in place excellent initiatives toward



Logo for all 17 SDGs goals

(Source: United Nations Information Center)

the realization of the SDGs. This year, Uomachi Shopping District Organization (Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture) received the SDGs Promotion Headquarters Chief's (Prime Minister's) Award for its efforts to implement the "SDGs Declaration" as a shopping district, and to engage in people- and environmentally-friendly activities through events and services.

At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June, the SDGs were raised as one of the main agenda items, and the "Osaka Update" was adopted, setting out the renewed resolve by the G20 to play a leading role in achieving the SDGs, and summarizing the G20's initiatives in areas such as health, education, and quality infrastructure. In September, the SDG Summit 2019 was held to coincide with the UN General Assembly. During this Summit, Prime Minister Abe communicated information about Japan's initiatives (see the Special Feature on page 251). Japan will continue to present to the world its stance as a strong leader in the promotion of the SDGs in various opportunities.

On the other hand, to achieve the SDGs by 2030, it has been estimated that there is an annual



8th meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters (December 20, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Meeting of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development (September 26, New York, U.S.)

Special  
Feature**SDG Summit 2019:  
Toward the Realization of a Society Where “No One is Left Behind”**

In September 2019, SDG Summit 2019 was held at the UN Headquarters in New York, with the aim of following up, at the leader's level, the SDGs initiatives implemented over the past four years, as well as increasing momentum toward the achievement of the SDGs. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, and the agreement by all UN member states on the SDGs that set out the future vision of the Earth for 2030 and beyond, the world has swiftly begun moving toward the achievement of these common goals. We now stand just over a quarter of the way on our path toward their achievement.

**SDG Summit 2019**

At the SDG Summit 2019, UN Secretary-General Guterres announced the designation of the decade leading up to 2030, as the “Decade of Action” toward the achievement of the SDGs. At the Summit, Prime Minister Abe shared with the participating leaders the initiatives that he had led as chair of the G20 Osaka Summit (June) and TICAD7 (August) held in Japan. These included initiatives in the areas of environment, education, health, disaster risk reduction, and quality infrastructure investment. In addition, as the head of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters of the Government of Japan, he announced the firm resolve to accelerate efforts in and out of Japan by the next SDG Summit, including those by the private sector and in regional revitalization programs. He also introduced a “SDGs Model,” which Japan is now implementing with three pillars: (1) Business and innovation; (2) Regional revitalization; and, (3) Empowerment of next generations and women.

**Japan's initiatives toward the achievement of the SDGs**

In order to promote the SDGs in Japan, the government's first initiative was to develop the domestic infrastructure. The SDGs Promotion Headquarters was established in 2016, with the Prime Minister as its head, the Chief Cabinet Secretary and Foreign Minister as the deputy heads, and all Cabinet ministers as members. Under this organization, the SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting comprising a wide range of stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, experts, international organizations and various organizations, engaged in discussions and formulated the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles as a national strategy toward the achievement of the SDGs, as well as the SDGs Action Plan with concrete measures. At the eighth SDGs Promotion Meeting convened in December 2019, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles were revised to take into account initiatives taken over the past four years and the latest trends in the international community. Furthermore, under the SDGs Action Plan 2020, the group renewed its resolve to further accelerate the widespread roll-out of Japan's SDGs Model.

For example, as prescribed in the new curriculum guidelines to be fully implemented at elementary schools from FY2020 and junior high schools from FY2021, it is required for schools to educate each student for being a creator of sustainable society in the future. This is expected to raise awareness of the SDGs among the young and their parents, and to encourage the generations that have learnt about the SDGs in school to play an active role in 2030 and beyond.

There are contributions that Japan can make toward the realization of a society where “no one is left behind.” Under this strong resolve, Japan will exert its leadership amidst this global trend, and continue to push forward in its efforts to strengthen its initiatives in Japan and overseas.



SDG Summit (September 24, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

funding shortfall of approximately 2.5 trillion US dollars (approximately 280 trillion yen) every year, and the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration clearly sets out the importance of innovative financing to overcome this financing gap. In September, Japan chaired a high-level meeting of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development in New York, a group that is made up of voluntary countries and organizations, and is advancing reviews on innovative financing for the achievement of the SDGs.

### **A Human Security**

Human security is a concept aiming at creating a community in which people can fully develop their rich potential through protecting all individuals, and at the same time empowering them to solve their own problems. Japan positions human security as a guiding principle that lies at the roots of Japan's development cooperation in the Development Cooperation Charter approved in 2015. Japan has led discussions on human security in the UN, and supported the dissemination and implementation of the concept of human security by UN organizations through the contribution of a cumulative total of about 47.6 billion yen to the UN Human Security Trust Fund established in 1999 by Japan's initiative. In the area of bilateral cooperation, Japan has also put effort into the dissemination and implementation of this concept through support for Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. The SDGs, which advocate a people-centered approach and the vision of leaving no one behind, also position human security at its core. In February 2019, the Government of Japan co-hosted the High-Level Event "Human Security at 25" with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the UN Human Security Unit and the relevant countries, at the UN Headquarters in New York. Marking the 25th anniversary since the introduction of the concept of human security into the international community, this meeting looked back on the history of human security, and affirmed that the

human security approach is becoming increasingly important in the era of the SDGs.

### **B Approaches in the Area of Disaster Risk Reduction**

200 million people around the world are affected by disasters every year (90% of the victims are citizens of developing countries) and the annual average loss incurred by natural hazards extends to approximately 140 billion US dollars according to estimates by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Disaster risk reduction is essential for realizing poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Japan makes the most of the expertise in disaster risk reduction, built up through its numerous experiences with disasters, to actively promote international cooperation. At the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai in March 2015, Japan took the lead in the adoption of the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030," a guideline for efforts by the international community. Japan also announced the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction" as its independent contribution, which includes provision of 4 billion US dollars toward cooperation and training of 40,000 people in the four years from 2015 to 2018. With the achievement of these goals, the Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction Phase 2 was announced in June 2019, under which Japan plans to provide support to at least 5 million people from 2019 to 2022, in areas such as flood measures.

Coinciding with World Tsunami Awareness Day (November 5), proposed by Japan and enacted unanimously at the 70th UN General Assembly held in December 2015, Japan has been hosting the High School Students Summit on "World Tsunami Awareness Day" since 2016. Held every year, high school students from countries around the world are invited to this event, and through practical learning about Japan's history of tsunami, recovery from earthquake disasters, and

preparations for a possible Nankai Trough earthquake, the participants make proposals for future challenges and implementation in their home countries.

Japan will continue to share the experiences and lessons drawn from past disasters with the world, and to promote the “mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction” that incorporates the perspectives of disaster risk reduction in the policies of every country.

### **C Approaches in the Area of Education**

In the area of education, Japan is engaged in various forms of educational support around the world under the “Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth,” announced by Japan in line with the timing for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. Japan also participates actively in meetings related to support for education, including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).<sup>7</sup> At the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) (see Chapter 3, Section 1 (8)(3)) held in March 2019, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan will continue its efforts to provide opportunities for quality education and training to at least 4 million women in developing countries by 2020. Furthermore, at the meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters held immediately prior to the G20 Osaka Summit in June, Japan announced its commitment to the “Education x Innovation” initiative, which aims to provide education for innovation, and education through innovation to at least 9 million children and youths. At the G20 Osaka Summit chaired by Japan, an agreement was reached on the “G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development,” which places the focus on education, and the commitment to invest in human capital and promote access to inclusive, equitable and quality education for all people was affirmed in the Initiative.

### **D Approaches in Agricultural Areas**

In coordination with the relevant countries, such as G7 or G20 member states and international organizations, Japan has delivered assistance for agriculture and rural development in developing countries. The G20 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting was held in May, during which the participants affirmed the importance of various issues related to agriculture and food, such as new technology and the creation of human resources, food value chains, and the SDGs. The G20 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Declaration 2019 was also adopted.

### **E Approaches in the Area of Water**

Japan has continuously been the largest donor country in the area of water since the 1990s and has implemented high quality assistance utilizing Japan's experiences, expertise, and technologies. Japan proactively participates in discussions in the international community, and tackles global issues in the area of water building upon its contributions to date. There was a plan to hold the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Kumamoto, in October 2020, but this has been postponed for about a year in view of the situation of the novel coronavirus disease outbreak.

## **(2) Global Health**

Overcoming health issues that threaten lives and hinder all kinds of social, cultural and economic activities is a common global challenge directly linked to human security. Japan advocates human security, as a foundation of the “Proactive Contribution to Peace,” and has acted in support of that principle. Japan regards health as a central element of human security. Japan has become a society of the most healthy and active ageing and is further expected to play a proactive role in the area of health. Japan aims to improve people's health and realize an international community

<sup>7</sup> GPE: An international partnership to support the education sector in developing countries, with the participation of developing countries, donor countries and organizations, civil society, etc. Focusing on support for primary education, it implements support for post-primary education, preschool education, education for women, and education in areas affected by conflict.

that ensures the right to health through assistance in the area of health.

Under this principle, Japan has achieved remarkable results in overcoming health issues such as infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and nutrition improvements through cooperation with a number of countries and various international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO); the World Bank; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund); Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT).

Bearing in mind the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that ensures the provision of basic health services throughout a life, for everyone, Japan has demonstrated leadership and has taken the lead in international discussions based on the "Basic Design for Peace and Health," a theme-based policy for the Development Cooperation Charter formulated in 2015.

At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June 2019, Japan, as the Presidency, included the achievement of UHC, aging population, and the health crisis as one of the main agenda items, and held the inaugural G20 Joint Session of Finance and Health Ministers to promote sustainable health financing. At the TICAD7 held in Yokohama in August, Japan also characterised health as one of the pillars of the foundation for realizing sustainable economic growth. Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe attended the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on UHC in September, where he emphasized the importance of promoting cross-sectoral initiatives for areas such as nutrition, water and hygiene, as well as strengthening health financing. The political declaration for this High-Level Meeting reaffirmed the goals of providing basic health care to all people and eradicating impoverishment due to health-related expenses

by 2030 (see the Special Feature on page 255).

Japan positioned nutrition, one of the cross-sectoral initiatives, as an issue that is related to human security and indispensable for the achievement of the SDGs, and has been advocating the importance of nutrition at the UN and other fora with a view to hosting the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.

### (3) Labor and Employment

It is important to raise income levels through employment, in order to raise the living standards of those living in poverty. Against the background of an expanding supply-chain worldwide, it is necessary to put effort into developing the labor environment, and to realize "decent work" (work that is of an acceptable quality for motivated human beings) around the world. The realization of "decent work" has been positioned as a primary objective of the activities of the International Labor Organization (ILO), which marks its centenary year in 2019.

In view of this, Japan is also engaged in development cooperation in the field of labor. In 2019, Japan offered technical cooperation to developing countries in the Asia Pacific region, including support for the urgent creation of employment in the aftermath of a natural disaster, the development of labor laws, and improvement of enforcement systems for labor, health and safety, by making voluntary contributions to the ILO and providing support to networks of international labor organizations.

In January, the second Japan-ILO Annual Strategic Consultation Meeting was held in Tokyo. Taking the opportunities presented by the centenary year of ILO's founding, the G20 Osaka Summit, the G20 Matsuyama Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting, and TICAD7, Japan and the ILO affirmed the following points: (i) further strengthening of cooperation on the "Future of Work" initiative;<sup>8</sup> (ii) Japan's financial

<sup>8</sup> An initiative by ILO aimed at understanding the ever-changing world of work, engaging in discussions on policies that will determine society in the future, and widely reviewing opportunities and issues on the future of work.

Special  
Feature

## UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Aiming to Realize Health and Peace of Mind for All the People of the World

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people can access quality essential health services at an affordable cost. In September 2019, a High-Level Meeting on UHC was held for the first time at the UN General Assembly.

UHC has been established as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN in 2015, and the international community aims to achieve UHC by 2030.

Japan achieved UHC with the introduction of a national health insurance system in 1961. The realization of UHC has made significant contributions to Japan's economic growth and social stability. Based on this experience, Japan has been proactively engaged in promoting UHC in the international community. Strengthening of health systems was advocated at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in 2008, and at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in 2016, UHC was included in the main agenda of a leader's level meeting for the first time and the G7 Ise-Shima Vision was adopted. The UHC Forum 2017 was held in Tokyo in 2017, where the Tokyo Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, which incorporated concrete initiatives such as securing sustainable financial resources, was adopted. Furthermore, the first G20 Joint Session of Finance and Health Ministers was held to discuss the importance of cooperation among financial and health authorities to promote UHC at the G20 Osaka Summit in June 2019.

With the growing political momentum toward promoting UHC in the international community as a result of Japan's sustained and proactive initiatives, the first High-Level Meeting on UHC was held at the UN General Assembly in September 2019, and the Political Declaration was endorsed. While more than 50 leaders and 85 ministers attended the event, Prime Minister Abe gave the closing speech at the Closing Ceremony on behalf of the member countries. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of UHC, health financing as well as promoting cross-sectoral initiatives in areas such as health, nutrition, water and sanitation.

In order to achieve UHC, cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders is indispensable. This includes not only governments, but also civil society, the private-sector, and international organizations. The voices of these stakeholders were also actively incorporated in the Political Declaration. Japan also established the "Group of Friends of UHC" as a UN platform, where it played a central role in developing the text for the Political Declaration.

The Political Declaration warns of the severe situation currently facing the world, stating that "at least half of the world's population lack access to essential health services [...] and out of pocket expenses drive almost 100 million people into poverty each year." It also sounds an alarm bell, emphasizing that "at the current pace, up to one third of the world's population will remain underserved by 2030, and acceleration of taking measures is urgently needed." To address the current severe situation, it reaffirms the target of covering all people with essential health services by 2030, and eradicating poverty caused by the payment of out-of-pocket health expenditure, and establishes concrete initiatives including additional investment in public health and creating employment for health workers.

Hence, the Political Declaration expresses the strong will of the international community to achieve UHC. Now that the Political Declaration has been adopted, each country faces the important challenge of transforming that into concrete action.



Prime Minister Abe presenting his speech at the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) (September 23, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and human resource contributions to date through its development cooperation support in the field of employment, and further strengthening of the partnership; and, (iii) adopting joint concrete action toward further reinforcement of Japanese staff in the ILO.

#### (4) Environmental Issues and Climate Change

##### **A** Global Environmental Issues

Awareness is building worldwide on the importance of addressing global environmental issues, as exemplified by the 2030 Agenda, which ascribes environmental goals. Japan is committed to conserving the natural environment and realizing sustainable development through active participation in multilateral environmental negotiations and engagements with other contracting parties to various environmental treaties. Japan is also contributing to projects that are addressing global environmental issues, and is the largest donor to the World Bank Group's Global Environment Facility, a financing mechanism for the treaties on biodiversity, climate change, land degradation and chemical contamination.

##### **(A) Conservation of the Marine Environment**

Addressing the problem of marine plastic litter is growing in importance in recent years, given its potential adverse impact on marine ecology, tourism, fisheries, and human health. These issues are caused by factors such as the illegal dumping of waste and incomplete waste disposal. At the G20 Osaka Summit held in June, Prime Minister Abe, with other leaders of the G20, orchestrated a common vision, "the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision," which aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. Leaders agreed on a concrete implementation framework toward the achievement of this Vision, and Japan announced the Marine Initiative (see the Special Feature on page 257), an assistance program designed to support capacity building and infrastructure development on waste management in

developing countries, to reinforce the achievement of this vision. As part of the package, Japan announced that it will nurture 10,000 waste management specialists worldwide by 2025. A follow-up meeting was convened in October 2019, based on the implementation framework, leading to a report on the measures of tackling marine plastic litter, compiling knowledge and lessons learned on voluntary initiatives conducted by each country.

With a view to further leveraging the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit on promoting international cooperation in marine plastic litter, Japan called for embracement of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision and its implementation framework, at the ASEAN Plus 3 (Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea) Summit in November 2019. Furthermore, under the ASEAN+3 Marine Plastics Debris Cooperative Action Initiative launched in 2018, Japan announced reinforced cooperation measures, including support to drafting national plans for waste management and establishing the Regional Knowledge Centre for Marine Plastic Debris under the auspices of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (comprising leaders of maritime nations) was established to discuss matters such as the conservation of the marine environment, the fishery industries and the utilization of marine resources, with a view to contributing toward the achievement of the SDGs. At the second meeting of the Panel which was held in New York, U.S., in September, Prime Minister Abe, in his message for the meeting, shared the outcomes of the G20 Osaka Summit with panel members, emphasizing the importance of initiatives related to marine plastic litter and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU).

##### **(B) Conservation of Biodiversity**

The illegal trade of wildlife, which has worsened in recent years, has drawn international

Special  
Feature

## Demonstration of Japan's Leadership: The Marine Plastic Litter Problem

In recent years, the marine plastic litter problem has been attracting much attention both in Japan and abroad. There are worries that the discharge of such litter into rivers and seas as a result of acts such as incomplete disposal of plastic products, littering, and illegal dumping, can have an adverse impact on marine ecosystems, tourism, fisheries, and the aquaculture industry. There are also concerns that fine particles known as microplastics can be accidentally consumed by fish. Consequently, the chemical substances that adhere to the microplastics are absorbed into the food chain, which can then have a negative impact on human health.

It is estimated that G7 countries generate about 2% of all marine plastic litter, while G20 countries make up approximately 48% of all marine plastic litter. Hence, it is vital for the international community as a whole to address and resolve the marine plastic litter problem. At the G20 Osaka Summit, which garnered participation from emerging and developing countries, Japan, under its Presidency, demonstrated its leadership in drafting the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which aims to reduce additional pollution from marine plastic litter to zero by 2050.

During this Summit, Prime Minister Abe announced the launch of the MARINE Initiative as Japan's own effort to materialize this Vision. The initiative is based on the understanding that reducing the amount of marine plastic litter worldwide cannot be achieved through one country's efforts alone; it recognizes the need to assist developing countries' efforts to put in place measures to prevent further discharges of marine plastic litter. In acknowledgement of this reality, Japan seeks to leverage its ODA programs and other means to help improve waste management in developing countries, focusing on the following areas:

**MARINE Initiative**

- |                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) <b>Management of Wastes</b> | (2) <b>Recovery of marine litter</b> |
| (3) <b>Innovation</b>           | (4) <b>Empowerment</b>               |

As a part of this Initiative, Japan is committed to training 10,000 officials engaging in waste management worldwide by 2025. In June, Japan decided to provide assistance toward expanding the use of marine biodegradable plastic in South Africa, and has plans to implement various other projects under this Initiative.

To date, Japan has consistently and proactively addressed the problem of marine pollution. For example, since 2004, Japan has supported Bangladesh, where plastic litter discarded in rivers has caused serious marine pollution in the Bay of Bengal. Japan has supported Bangladesh, for example, by training sanitation staff and providing equipment such as waste collection vehicles. Through this support, Dhaka's waste collection rate, which had been 44% in 2004, improved to 80% by 2018, thus helping to reduce pollution in the Bay of Bengal by a significant margin.

Japan will continue to take a proactive approach toward addressing the marine plastic litter problem by leveraging the technology and experience it has built up over the years to support developing countries in areas such as waste management and human resource development.



G20 Osaka Summit (June 28, Osaka;  
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Illegally dumped waste at a river on the outskirts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh (Photo: JICA)



Waste collection vehicles granted by Japan (Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo: JICA)

attention as one of the key sources of funding for international terrorist organizations. To help address the problem, Japan conducted a capacity building workshop on measures against illegal trade of wildlife in Malaysia, in cooperation with the UK in February, 2019. In addition, Japan provided elephant anti-poaching operation facilities in Uganda (April) and Mozambique (July), underscoring Japan's drive to address this issue seriously. Japan also participated actively in international negotiations on these matters, including the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (held in Geneva, Switzerland) and the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG1), held in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss how these issues could be handled in the new framework that would succeed the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Japan also contributed substantively to international discussions on the global conservation and sustainable uses of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, with a view to enhancing sustainable agriculture and food security worldwide. At the eighth session of the Governing Body to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Japan contributed to the work of enhancing the multilateral system on access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits, and at the forum, introduced Japan's gene bank initiatives (in particular, the development of unmanned, AI-based long-term storage systems for seeds), as well as its cutting-edge initiatives in the conservation and use of genetic resources, in collaboration with developing countries.

At the 55th Session of the Council of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Japan engaged in discussions on the promotion of sustainable forest management and the establishment of timber supply chains that can

track the flow of legally harvested timber and timber products.

### (C) International Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Hazardous Waste

Japan also attended the 31st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held in November in Rome, Italy, to discuss matters such as the operation of the revised protocol with the addition of hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) as a controlled substance.

At the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Minamata Convention on Mercury held in Geneva, Switzerland in November, Japan contributed to the establishment of international rules pertaining to the regulation of mercury through several ways such as the submission of a resolution proposed jointly with the European Union. Japan was elected as a member of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, after being recommended alongside with China and Jordan from the Asia Pacific region. Through this Committee, Japan works to promote the implementation of the Minamata Convention by verifying the contracting parties' compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

## B Climate Change

### (A) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Paris Agreement

Global efforts are essential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change; however, the Kyoto Protocol adopted at the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP3) in 1997 required only developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement was adopted at COP21 held in Paris in December 2015. The Paris Agreement is a fair and effective framework that provides that parties communicate their nationally determined contributions to greenhouse gas emission reductions and undertake efforts toward the achievement of

such goals regardless of whether they are developed or developing countries. The Agreement entered into force in November 2016, and has been ratified by more than 180 countries including Japan (as of December 2019). In November 2019, the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

Upon the adoption of the Paris Agreement, negotiations commenced on the implementation guidelines of the Agreement toward its full implementation after 2020, and these were adopted at COP24 held in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. At COP25 held in Madrid, Spain in December 2019, the parties could not reach a complete agreement on negotiations for the implementation guidelines of the market mechanisms, which are carried over from COP24. It was decided that negotiations will continue at COP26 toward the adoption of the guidelines. On the other hand, concrete progress was observed on for agenda items such as loss and damage (loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change), gender and climate change, and the impact of implementation of response measures (social and economic impacts arising from the implementation of mitigation policies and actions).

### (B) Virtuous Cycle of Environment and Growth

Japan reached a Cabinet decision on the “Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy” (hereafter, “Long-Term Strategy”) in June 2019, and submitted it to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat.

The Long-Term Strategy proclaims a “decarbonized society” as the ultimate goal, and aims to bring about the realization of “a virtuous cycle of environment and growth” with business-led disruptive innovation. In the financial sector, there are also moves that can lead to restraining the use of fossil fuels that emit large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> including coal, through engagement (encouraging invested companies to take action), divestments

(withdrawing investment on assets related to fossil fuels) and others. However, divestment alone cannot address climate change. Rather, it is considered that investment in environment, society, and governance (ESG) to positively evaluate capital investments and innovation for decarbonization will attain further importance. To that end, it presents concrete measures to develop an environment for the mainstreaming of ESG financing, and to foster a proactive stance among corporations and financial institutions.

Moreover, all the G20 members agreed on the importance of the concept of “a virtuous cycle of environment and growth” at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth held in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture in June, and at the G20 Osaka Summit.

### (C) Efforts in Supporting Developing Countries

Developed countries including Japan have provided various supports for developing countries so that those countries can implement sufficient climate change measures. Those supports include financial cooperation, capacity building, and technology transfer. From such perspectives, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) also plays an important role as a multilateral fund that provides support for developing countries to address climate change. In addition to its initial contribution of 1.5 billion US dollars (2015 to 2018), Japan expressed at the High-Level Pledging Conference for the GCF's First Replenishment held in October 2019 that it will contribute up to 1.5 billion US dollars. Serving as a board member of the GCF, Japan has actively participated in its management as well as policy-making. By December 2019, the GCF Board has approved 124 support projects, which are projected to abate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1.6 billion tons and reach about 350 million beneficiaries.

### (D) Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

The JCM is a mechanism for contributing to worldwide global warming measures, by

evaluating contributions from Japan to GHG emission reductions or removals in a quantitative manner, and using them to achieve Japan's emission reduction target, through the application of its excellent low carbon technologies, as well as the implementation of mitigation actions in developing countries. As of December 2019, Japan has established the JCM with 17 partner countries, and implemented more than 160 projects related to the reduction or removal of greenhouse gases. In 2019, the initiative has steadily produced results, such as through the issuance of credits from projects in Laos, Mongolia, Viet Nam, Maldives, and Thailand.

#### (E) Japan's efforts in Climate Change and Fragility Risk

In response to suggestions at the Roundtable Seminar on "Climate Change and Fragility Implications on International Security" held in January 2017 and other fora, to which Japan will focus on the Asia Pacific and conduct studies and engage in discussions on climate change and fragility, Japan convened the International Conference on Climate Change and Fragility in the Asia-Pacific Region in 2019 following from the conference in July 2018, as one of its initiatives on climate change and fragility risk. The 2019 conference (although scheduled to be held in Yokohama in October, was reduced in scale due to Typhoon Hagibis and held online in November) was organized as a symposium based on the theme of climate change and the Pacific. Participants of various backgrounds introduced the latest scientific findings and initiatives related to climate change, and deepened understanding on the impact of the oceans on climate change and the role of the seas in climate change measures, as well as the approach that each party should adopt.

#### (F) Climate Change Measures by Non-State Actors

Measures by non-state actors such as private corporations, local governments, and NGOs are also important in tackling climate change. In Japan as well, non-state actors have made further progress in their efforts, as demonstrated by keen activities of the network of non-state actors, Japan Climate Initiative (JCI), which aims to take proactive action in the area of climate change, the Japan Climate Leaders' Partnership (JCLP), a corporate group with the same goal, and "RE Action – Declaring 100% Renewable," a corporate group whose members have established the goal of procuring 100% renewable energy for the electricity required in the operation of their businesses, as well as the increase in the number of Japanese corporations participating in the international initiative "RE100" and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)<sup>9</sup>. Japan aims to advance climate change diplomacy in cooperation with such initiatives by non-state actors.

### (5) Arctic and Antarctic

#### A Arctic

##### (A) Current State of the Arctic, and Japan's Arctic Policy

There is a risk that rapid changes in the Arctic environment caused by global warming will have a drastic and irreversible impact on the ecology and the lives of those living in the Arctic, including indigenous peoples. At the same time, as the decreasing amount of sea ice is expected to expand the navigable area, there have been growing economic opportunities such as the use of the Northern Sea Route and the development of resources. Alongside this, Russia is promoting resource exploitation and freight shipping on the Northern Sea Route, while China has also published a white paper on its Arctic policy in 2018

<sup>9</sup> The TCFD was established by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) as a task force on the disclosure of financial information related to climate change, led by the private sector. In its final report, it presented a framework on voluntary information disclosure by corporations pertaining to climate-related risks and opportunities.

and is observed to be proactively advancing into the Arctic. Against this backdrop, the U.S. is also enhancing its engagement in light of changes in the situation of the Arctic.

As for Japan, the Headquarters for Ocean Policy approved the “Japan’s Arctic Policy” in October 2015 as its basic policy on the Arctic. In addition, the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, adopted by the Cabinet in May 2018, added a separate section on Arctic policy for the first time and positioned it as one of the main policy items in Japan’s ocean policy.

### (B) Japan's International Activities on the Arctic

Japan has appointed an Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs. The Ambassador attends international conferences on the Arctic including the Senior Arctic Official’s meeting of the Arctic Council (AC),<sup>10</sup> in which Japan participates as an observer, and presents Japan’s efforts and views on issues surrounding the Arctic. The fourth Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic among Japan, China and the Republic of Korea (ROK), launched as the outcome of the Sixth Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit in 2015, was convened in Busan in June 2019, where a candid exchange of opinions was carried out on their Arctic policies. The seventh Arctic Circle Assembly<sup>11</sup> was held in Iceland in October 2019, where the Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs delivered a speech on Japan’s efforts considering Japan co-hosting the third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) with Iceland, the current Chair of the AC, in November 2020. Japan will continue to secure the interests of Japan and the international community and contribute to solving global issues surrounding the Arctic.



Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs delivering a speech at the seventh Arctic Circle Assembly (October 10-12, Reykjavik, Iceland)

In addition, Japan promotes international cooperation on the Arctic with the relevant countries including the Arctic countries. Through the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability (ArCS) project launched in FY2015, Japan promotes international cooperation for research and human resource development at research and observation stations in the U.S., Canada, Russia, Norway, and Greenland (Denmark). Japan has also sent its researchers to the AC working groups specialized in specific themes, where they present outcomes of their research on the Arctic and contribute to discussions. In addition, Japan invited Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs of Iceland and a group of Alaskan indigenous peoples to Japan in September and December 2019 respectively and provided them with opportunities for interaction and exchange of opinions with Japan’s Arctic researchers to promote their

<sup>10</sup> A high-level intergovernmental consultation body established in 1996 with the aim of promoting cooperation, coordination, and exchanges between the eight Arctic countries (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the U.S.), while gaining the involvement of indigenous communities on common issues related to the Arctic region (in particular, sustainable development, environmental protection, etc.). (It is clearly affirmed that it does not address military and security issues.) Japan acquired an observer status in 2013.

<sup>11</sup> An international conference established by Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, former President of Iceland and others in 2013 and attended by about 2,000 participants including government representatives, researchers, and business people. Japan has been participating in it since the first assembly with the attendance of the Ambassador in charge of Arctic Affairs and other delegates. They deliver speeches at the plenary session, while Japanese researchers present the outcomes of their scientific research at breakout sessions.

understanding of Japan's efforts on the Arctic.

## **B Antarctic**

### **(A) The Antarctic Treaty**

The Antarctic Treaty adopted in 1959 sets forth the following three basic principles: (1) the use of the Antarctica for peaceful purposes, (2) freedom of scientific investigations and international cooperation, and (3) a freeze on territorial rights and claims.

### **(B) The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the Protection of Antarctic Environment**

At the 42nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 42) held in Prague, Czech Republic, in July 2019, discussions were held on recent issues, including the microplastics pollution in the Antarctic Ocean, and the impact of the increase in the number of tourists on the Antarctic environment, taking into account the yearly increase in the number of travelers to the Antarctic region for tourism and other purposes.

### **(C) Japan's Antarctic Observation**

As for Japan's Antarctic observation activities, based on the 9th six-year plan of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (2016 to 2021), Japan is undertaking efforts to elucidate the role and impact of the Antarctic region on the global system, and in particular, to elucidate the actual conditions of global warming and its mechanisms. To that end, in addition to long-term continuous observation, it is also implementing various research and observation activities, including observation using large aperture atmospheric radar.

## **3 Science and Technology Diplomacy**

Science and technology constitute the foundational elements for peace and prosperity that support socioeconomic development, and play

a vital role in ensuring safety and security. By harnessing its own advanced science and technology, Japan promotes Science and Technology Diplomacy, thereby contributing to the development of science and technology at home and abroad, the promotion of relations with other countries, the peace and stability of the international community, and the resolution of global challenges. As part of this effort, Japan places emphasis on initiatives implemented through the activities of the Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Prof. Kishi Teruo (Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs), who assumed office in September 2015, supports the activities of the Foreign Minister from the perspective of science and technology, and provides advice on the utilization of science and technology in the planning and coordination of various foreign policies to the Minister and relevant divisions. He also takes part in public relations activities concerning Japan's science and technology capabilities, while strengthening partnerships with Japanese and foreign stakeholders in the fields of science and technology. In April 2019, Prof. Kano Mitsunobu was newly appointed as the Science and Technology Co-Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to support the work of Prof. Kishi.

In 2019, the Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy, chaired by Prof. Kishi, was held in March, July, and November, during which various issues related to science and technology, and diplomacy were discussed. Prof. Kishi submitted the summary recommendations to TICAD7 from the March meeting, titled "Achieving an innovation ecosystem together with Africa," to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko, and the recommendations were reflected in Japan's initiatives at TICAD7.

Prof. Kishi also works in cooperation with the Cabinet Office and MOFA to promote public

relations activities on science, technology, and innovation.<sup>12</sup> He visited Argentina and Brazil in March, and Israel and Egypt in May, conducted lectures, and engaged in discussions with the relevant organizations and researchers on matters such as future potential for collaboration.

Prof. Kishi also puts effort into exchanging opinions with science and technology advisors of the governments of other countries, such as the U.S., the UK, and New Zealand, and into building and strengthening networks. In November, he introduced Japan's Science and Technology Diplomacy at the World Science Forum (WSF) held in Hungary, and deepened discussions with science and technology advisors from various countries at the meeting of the Foreign Ministries Science and Technology Advice Network (FMSTAN) held in Austria. MOFA co-hosted the 2nd Symposium on Science and Technology Diplomacy with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in December, and drew ideas from experts on the direction for Science and Technology Diplomacy. Furthermore, Prof. Kishi also regularly holds Science and Technology Diplomacy seminars to raise the level of knowledge within MOFA.

Japan has concluded 32 science and technology cooperation agreements, and these are now in force with 46 countries and the EU.<sup>13</sup> Based on these agreements, it organizes regular joint committee meetings with these countries to engage in



2nd Symposium on Science and Technology Diplomacy  
(December 11, Tokyo; Photo: GRIPS)

intergovernmental dialogue. In 2019, joint committee meetings were held with Canada, Germany, the U.S., the Netherlands, Australia, and the EU respectively. Attended by delegates from the relevant ministries and institutions, consultations were held on the current status of cooperation in diverse sectors, and on the future direction of cooperation.

With regard to multilateral cooperation, as a member of the Board of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) that supports research for peaceful purposes conducted by researchers on weapons of mass destruction from the former Soviet Union, Japan works together with the U.S. and the EU to provide support mainly to countries of Central Asia. Japan also participates in ITER projects to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of nuclear fusion energy.

<sup>12</sup> Project (known as "SIP Caravan") to introduce the SIP (Strategic Innovation Promotion Program), which is a new type of Japanese national project for science, technology and innovation, spearheaded by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (CSTI) as it exercises its headquarters function to accomplish its role in leading science, technology and innovation beyond the framework of government ministries and traditional disciplines by facilitating coordination among government, industry and academic entities under 11 themes, in order to lay the groundwork for future international cooperation, as well as for the international dissemination of Japan's research and development output, through cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomatic missions overseas).

<sup>13</sup> The Japan-USSR Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was succeeded by Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan on different dates. The Japan-Czechoslovakia Science and Technology Cooperation Arrangement was succeeded by individual agreements with the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. The Japan-Yugoslavia Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was succeeded by individual agreements with Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia (country name at the time), Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro on different dates.