

Section 3

Diplomacy with the Support of the Public

1 Proactive Communications to the Public

(1) Overview

Public understanding and support are indispensable for the smooth implementation of Japan's foreign policy. As such, providing prompt and clear explanations on the policy details and on the role of the government is crucial. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) is making efforts in timely and effective public relations, using various forms of media, lectures, publications, and others.

(2) Providing Information through Domestic Media

MOFA has committed itself to promptly and accurately providing information through various media, such as newspapers, television, and the Internet, in order to gain the understanding and support of Japanese nationals for Japan's foreign policy. To provide information effectively, regular press conferences are conducted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Press Secretary, while special press conferences are held as necessary. Press conferences by the Foreign Minister are open to various media including Internet media, and the records and videos of the press conferences are posted on MOFA's website. During overseas or local visits by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, MOFA provides the



A Regular press conference (MOFA, Tokyo)

Dissemination of Information through Press Conferences

Minister for Foreign Affairs	111 times
Press Secretary	30 times
Total	141 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2019 Text posted MOFA website

Dissemination of Information through Documents

Statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs	22 times
Statements by the Press Secretary	64 times
Press releases by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1,344 times
Total	1,430 times

*From January 1 to December 31, 2019 Counted by MOFA

information related to the visits from the countries/places so that people can quickly follow and understand the gist and the outcomes of the visits. MOFA also regularly releases statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or Press Secretary on specific international issues, announcing the stance of the Government of Japan. Similarly,

MOFA frequently provides press releases on its daily diplomatic activities. Additionally, through various media appearances and interviews, the Minister and State Ministers for Foreign Affairs often explain the Government's foreign policies directly to the public. During large-scale international conferences such as the G20 Osaka Summit and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Japan in 2019, the International Media Center (IMC) was established to support activities of domestic and overseas media personnel at the location.

(3) Information Provision through the Internet

MOFA's website (in Japanese and English) is a way to promptly provide information on the diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister as well as on Japan's foreign policy including territorial integrity, recognition of history, and security along with the latest international relations and other basic relevant information. In 2019, MOFA provided information about a variety of diplomatic events such as the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7.

MOFA's website in the Japanese language provides a variety of content for Japanese nationals across a wide range of levels, including the "Anything Report" from Around the World" and "MOFA for Kids."

In addition to this, MOFA provides a variety of information through various social media platforms.



MOFA's Official Website:
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>



MOFA's Official Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Mofa.Japan.en>



MOFA for Kids (only in the Japanese language):
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/kids/index.html>

MOFA's Official Website



MOFA's Official Facebook



MOFA for Kids



(4) Dialogue with Japanese Nationals

With the notion of “Public Relations through Dialogue,” MOFA provides the people of Japan with an opportunity to directly talk to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and MOFA officials.

As part of these efforts, MOFA also participates in “Home Town Talks” in which the three highest ranking officials of various ministries and governmental agencies talk with the residents of local Japanese areas. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji visited Susaki City of Kochi Prefecture in April, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Norikazu visited Hamada City of Shimane Prefecture in May, giving explanations on MOFA’s policies and exchanging opinions with the participants.

MOFA reaches out to various age groups by holding “Lectures on the International Situations,”

“Diplomatic Talks,” and “Talks for High School Programs,” and by sending its officials to venues such as international exchange organizations, universities, and high schools throughout Japan. MOFA attaches importance on promoting better understandings in foreign policy and international affairs among youth who are going to bear the future of Japan on their shoulders. With the notion in mind, MOFA holds the “International Issue Presentation Contest” for university students, and debate sessions between university students and

Number of Lectures on Various Topics Offered by the Ministry and the Number of Visits to the Ministry by Elementary, Junior and Senior-High School Students

Lecture on the International Situations	9 times
Diplomatic Talk Program	39 times
Talk for High School Programs	95 times
Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA	115 times

(*From January 1 to December 31, 2019)



Visits by elementary, junior and senior- high school students to MOFA: Students from Fujii Senior High School (October 23, Tokyo, MOFA)



International Issue Presentation Contest (October 5, Nihonbashi Social Education Center, Tokyo)



Lectures on International Situations (November 6, Kyoto Shimbun Culture Hall, Kyoto City)



Periodical Journal “Diplomacy”

young officials of the ministry through “Dialogue with Students,” providing opportunities for young students to visit MOFA under the program “Visits by elementary, junior and senior-high school students to MOFA,” and offering parents and children an opportunity to participate in the “Children’s Kasumigaseki Tour Day” during which they can tour various governmental ministries and learn about their work. In particular, at MOFA during the “Children’s Kasumigaseki Tour Day,” State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abe Toshiko held a “Children’s Press Conference” to answer a variety of diplomacy-related questions from elementary and junior high school students.

MOFA also introduces Japan’s ODA policies and specific measures to the public through various symposia, lectures, and “ODA Delivery Lectures” in which MOFA officials take part (33 lectures in 2019).

Additionally, MOFA publishes the periodical journal “Diplomacy,” sharing information on discussions taking place in various areas and at various levels concerning diplomacy and international affairs relevant to Japan widely. In 2019, the journal featured numerous papers written by renowned domestic and overseas experts on a variety of foreign diplomacy issues, including the U.S.-China relations and the situation in Northeast Asia, in addition to the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7.

Moreover, MOFA also makes various pamphlets in order to promote further understanding on the organizational structure and foreign policies of MOFA in an understandable manner. In addition to the above, MOFA accepts individual public opinions through various ways, including the websites of MOFA and the office of the Prime Minister of Japan, and the web system of e-Government Public Comment Procedure (“e-Gov”). Comments and opinions from the public are accordingly shared in MOFA and used as a reference in policy making and planning.

(5) Promotion of the Declassification of Diplomatic Records and Access to Information

To further enhance the public understanding of and confidence in Japan’s foreign policy, MOFA is actively engaging itself in the smooth transfer of records and their declassification. In addition, MOFA has been engaged in efforts to facilitate greater convenience in the public use of diplomatic documents.

MOFA preserves more than 120,000 historical materials, including 40,000 prewar historical documents in its diplomatic archives and has declassified its postwar diplomatic records since 1976 as a voluntary initiative. The Rules on the Declassification of Diplomatic Records, which were established in May 2010, stipulate: (1) the declassification of diplomatic documents created more than 30 years ago in principle and (2) the establishment of the “Committee for the Promotion of the Declassification of the Diplomatic Records” which is chaired by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as attended by external experts, to further promote the declassification of diplomatic records and improve its transparency. The number of files which have been transferred to the Diplomatic Archives and made public since then reached approximately 33,000 by the end of 2019.

Furthermore, MOFA discloses information pursuant to the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs, while giving considerations to national security, the relationship of mutual trust with other countries, the impact on diplomatic negotiations, and the protection of personal information. In 2019, MOFA received 890 requests for disclosure, and documents totaling 224,505 pages were disclosed.

Column

The Special Exhibition for the 150th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Japanese Diplomacy as Reflected in Historical Documents

Once or twice a year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) holds special exhibitions at its Diplomatic Archives Exhibition Hall. Those exhibitions display items related to anniversary events of the Ministry, or those related to incidents and people in diplomatic history.

The year 2019 marked the 150th anniversary of the foundation of MOFA. In commemorating the anniversary, a special exhibition “150 Years of Japanese Diplomacy” was held from July 2 to October 4. This exhibition displayed documents of treaties and records of negotiations between Japan and foreign countries during the last 150 years.

The exhibition was held in two sections. The first section introduced the history of Japan's diplomatic activities from the late 19th century to the 1970s. The documents displayed in this section included: the “Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation (1894)” that brought significant progress to the revision of the Unequal Treaties which had been a diplomatic issue since the foundation of MOFA; the “Hull note (1941)” presented by U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull at the final stage of the negotiations with Japan before the outbreak of the Pacific War; the “Resolution concerning Japan's admission to the UN (1956)” which signified the return of Japan to the postwar international community; the “Agreement between Japan and the United States of America Concerning the Ryukyu Islands and the Daito Islands (1972),” among others.

The second section introduced various international issues Japan tackled as a member of the international community and a postwar major economic power under the frameworks for international cooperation. This section displayed telegrams of the G7 Summit proceedings (1978), currency and postage stamps issued by other countries in commemorating Japan's ODA support, the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Singapore for a New-Age Economic Partnership (2002) which highlighted a new economic diplomacy of Japan in the 21st century, the Paris Agreement (2015) which showed Japan's initiatives toward climate change, and other issues.



The Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation (Ratified)



Exhibition poster

Visitors to the exhibitions gave feedback such as “It was great to learn about 150 years of diplomatic history through historical documents,” “Seeing directly the things that I have learned at school gave me a deeper understanding of the contents,” “It was great to see with my own eyes the original and valuable historical documents,” and “It made me think how Japanese diplomacy should be in the new Reiwa era.”

Since its establishment, MOFA has engaged in various diplomatic activities to protect the interests of Japan and the Japanese people in the international community. The current diplomacy is based upon those past experiences. We hope that this exhibition provided an opportunity to consider the future of Japanese diplomacy and the international community.

MOFA will continue to make efforts in promoting public understanding of Japanese diplomacy by preserving, managing, and encouraging the use of important historical documents.

Diplomatic Archives

1-5-3 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0041

Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Excluding Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and year-end and New Year holidays. Temporary opening hours available. For details, please see the website: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/hq/record/index.html>)



2 Strengthening the Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

The security environment surrounding Japan has become even more severe, and diplomatic issues are becoming more complex and diverse as changes in the power balance of the international community accelerate and become more complex. Under these circumstances, MOFA must enhance its foreign policy implementation structure in order to achieve steady outcomes by pursuing “diplomacy with a sense of caring and robustness” to further advance “diplomacy that takes a panoramic perspective of the world map,” and MOFA is reinforcing its organization and personnel at headquarters and overseas missions, including embassies and consulates general.

Diplomatic missions overseas, such as embassies and consulates general, not only represent Japan and promote diplomatic agenda, but also play a key role in areas such as information gathering on the frontline and strategic communication with the public abroad. At the same time, overseas missions are also responsible for operations directly related to enhancing the interests of Japanese nationals, such as protecting their lives and safety, providing support for Japanese companies, promoting investment and tourism, and securing energy and other resources.

In January 2020, Japan established a new embassy in Vanuatu. As a result, the number of diplomatic missions overseas as of FY2019 is 227 (152 embassies, 65 consulates general, and 10 permanent missions).

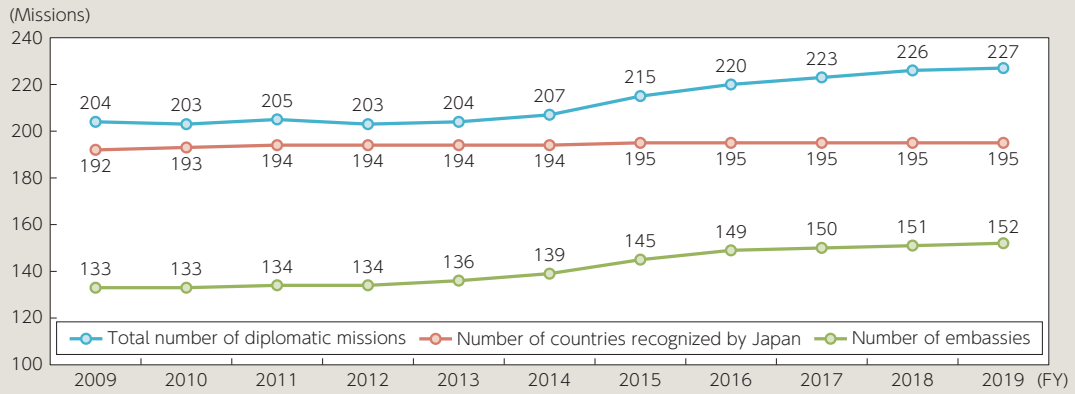
Vanuatu is a country with great affinity toward Japan, and it is one of the geopolitically important countries in the Melanesian region for gathering and disseminating information. Through opening an embassy in the country, Japan seeks to elevate bilateral relations with Vanuatu to a higher level and strengthen cooperation in the international arena.

A new Japanese embassy in Haiti and a Japanese consulate general in Cebu, Philippines will be established in FY2020. While Haiti has the

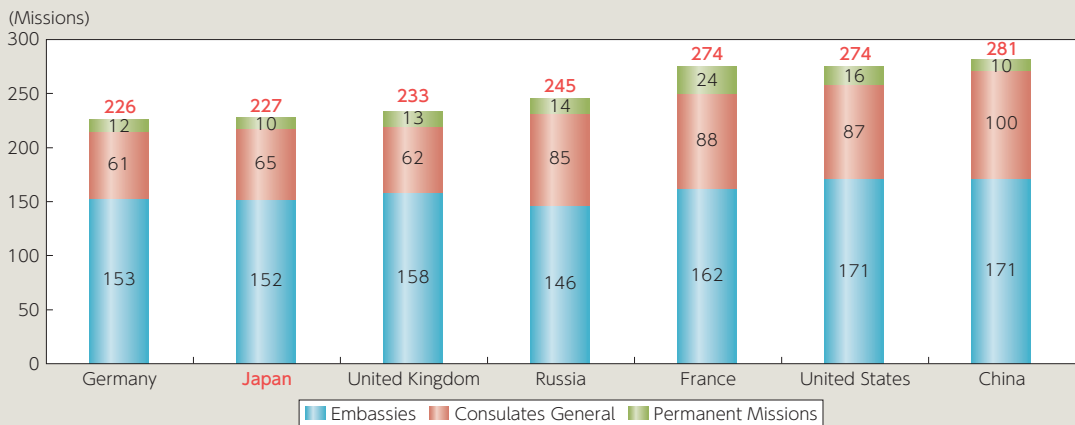
largest population in the Caribbean Community, it is also the poorest country in Latin America, and interest from the international community over the country remains high amidst its frequently occurring natural disasters. Haiti is also traditionally one of the friendliest countries to Japan that has supported many of Japan's positions in the international arena. Cebu is the second largest metropolitan area in the Philippines after Manila. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of Japanese companies and travelers, such as tourists and language students in Cebu and the Visayas region at large. It is essential for Japan to strengthen its capacity to protect Japanese nationals and to support Japanese companies by establishing a basis for information gathering on political and economic affairs to deepen its bilateral relations with the Philippines in a multi-layered manner

In addition to establishing more diplomatic missions overseas, it is important to secure and increase the number of staff members to support diplomacy at MOFA and diplomatic missions overseas. In the context of the Government's policy to reduce the overall personnel expenses due to the current severe budget situation, the number of staff members at MOFA was increased to 6,288 (6,173 in 2018) in order to strengthen information gathering and analysis capabilities, vitalize the Japanese economy including promotion of infrastructure exports, further advance strategic communications, bolster security, and address bilateral relations and regional situations. This number, however, remains insufficient in comparison with other major countries. MOFA continues its efforts to build a structure that is commensurate with Japan's national power and diplomatic policy. In the meantime, as enhancing the foreign policy implementation structure remains necessary in FY2020, MOFA will increase its staff members by 70 in order to address important issues, such as protection and safety measures for Japanese nationals abroad as well as information gathering and analysis capabilities, Japan's

Changes in the Number of Diplomatic Missions

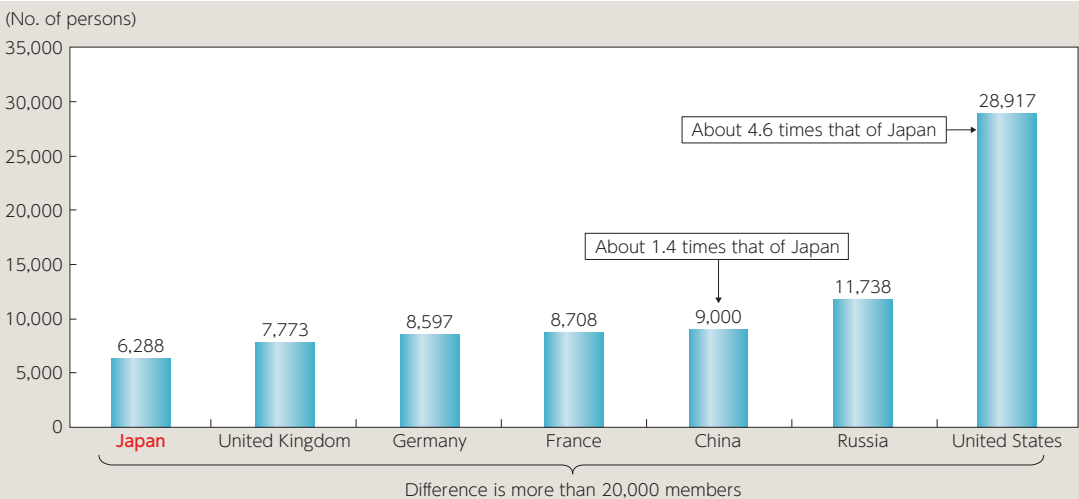


Comparison of the Number of Diplomatic Missions of Japan with Major Countries



Note: As of January 2020

Comparison of the Number of Staff Members at Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Major Countries



based on the FY2019 survey result

Column

Executive Chefs for Ambassadors/Consuls-General of Japan: At the Forefront of Diplomacy

Miyamura Kosei

I have been working for Ambassador Sugiyama at the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka since October 2018, after serving as the Executive Chef for the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar. Before I became an executive chef for the Ambassador, I had never even travelled abroad, and I had heard a little about this job at the culinary institute. It had never occurred to me that I would be engaged in this line of work. When I first took up the post in Myanmar, I felt uneasy about whether I would be competent enough for the job. However, thanks to the assistance from the Ambassador and Madame, and as well as the warm support of the local staff, I quickly became accustomed to the job and the local environment.

My main job is to offer a hospitable experience to VIPs who have been invited as guests of the Ambassador. The table could be just for two; the Ambassador and a guest. It sometimes can take the form of sit-down dining for more than 20 people or stand-up buffets for 30 to 40 people. Many of the guests are those inconceivable for me to meet in everyday life, including VIPs from the country that I am stationed in, as well as ambassadors of various countries and ministers from Japan, such as the Prime Minister or the Minister for Foreign Affairs. One of the greatest satisfactions I get from this job is having the opportunity to serve the food that I have prepared for them. Most of the guests look forward to having Japanese cuisine, so I put my heart and soul into creating each dish, using locally-sourced ingredients as much as possible while incorporating new preparation methods.

Sri Lanka, like Japan, is an island country, with a wide variety of fish in the markets. When I visit the market to shop for ingredients, I enjoy mulling over ingredients to choose as I imagine what the finished dish will look like.

As this role allows me to take on the responsibilities of buying and preparing ingredients, creating the menu, deciding on the tableware, and choosing the liquors and wines to pair with the food consistently from beginning to end, I find this job very fulfilling and rewarding.

Myanmar and Sri Lanka are a mix of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and so on, and there are different things that the people of each religion cannot consume. This is the most difficult aspect when it comes to thinking about the menu. For example, we cannot serve any animal products to guests who are strict vegans, so I have to serve a soup stock made only from kelp instead of a soup stock made from kelp and bonito.

In addition to serving dishes while taking such precautions into consideration, I also have to pay close attention to the purpose of each and every meal. The objectives that the Ambassador and staff of the embassy wish to achieve through a meal vary depending on each guest and situation. There is no greater joy than to know that I have been able to contribute, even a little, to achieving the objectives through a meal that I was involved in. When I receive praise after a meal, I feel so happy that all the difficulties I had during the preparation of the meal simply melt away. Of course, it would not be possible alone without the cooperation of local staff who prepare and serve the food alongside me.

In my everyday work, I prioritize teamwork and pay attention to communication in order to build mutual trust with the local staff who are my working partners.

"Washoku," Japan's traditional food, has been designated as UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage and is increasingly attracting attention across the world. Bearing that in mind, while doing research on dishes that will delight all the five senses, I will continue to prepare cuisines for the enjoyment of all.



With local staff in the kitchen (Author: Center)

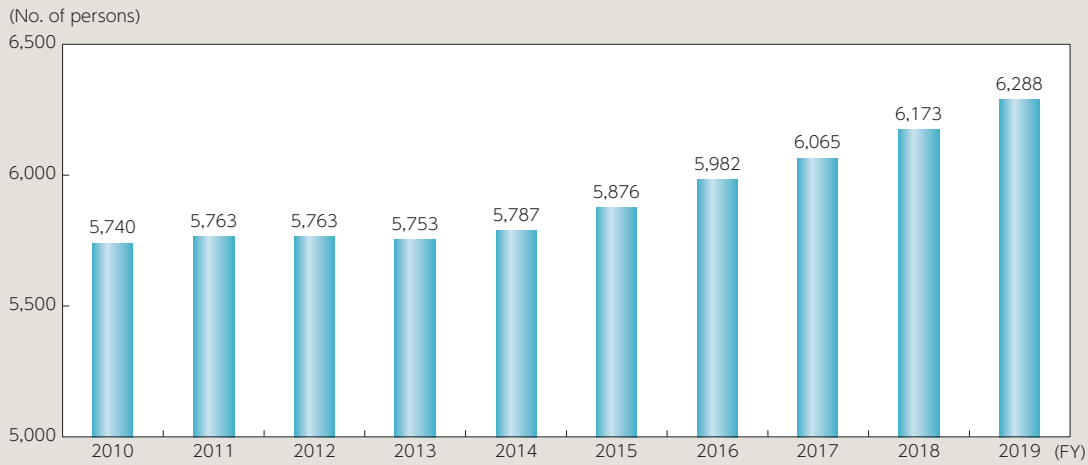


Scene in the kitchen

To find out more about the activities of executive chefs for ambassadors/consuls-general of Japan as well as recruitment information, please visit the following website (only in the Japanese language):
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/annai/zaigai/ryourinin.html>



Number of Staff Members at MOFA



further economic vitalization including increased infrastructure exports, stronger strategic communications, advancing its diplomacy under the policy of “Proactive Contributor to Peace,” and addressing bilateral relations and regional affairs.

MOFA appropriated a budget of 730.6 billion yen in the budget for FY2019 (an increase of 33.9 billion yen from FY2018) to take on an even more proactive role in diplomacy to lead international initiatives and discussions. The total amount of MOFA’s FY2019 supplementary budget was 130.4 billion yen for support for humanitarian, counter-terrorism or social stabilization assistance including refugee issues and, as economic measures, support for global issues such as epidemic diseases and support for promoting inbound tourism.

MOFA’s FY2020 initial government budget proposal appropriated 712.0 billion yen based on the following priorities: (1) continuing to protect the international order, based on basic values, from various challenges; (2) promoting active economic diplomacy; (3) strengthening strategic communications and expanding the circle of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan; (4) actively contributing to solving global issues; (5) supporting the age of large-scale people-to-people exchange on the front lines; (6) fundamentally strengthening the foreign policy implementation

structure. In addition to increasing the ODA budget to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) including Pacific Island countries, the budget for strengthening systems to bolster the international order based on the rule of law was also expanded.

In order to promote Japan’s national interests, it is essential to strengthen the foreign policy implementation structure. Japan will continue to proceed strategically to further enhance the foreign policy implementation structure while making efforts to streamline operations.

3 Role of Intellectuals in Diplomacy

In shaping the future international order in the drastically changing world, it is becoming more apparent that experts from the private sector can take the initiative to freely conduct policy discussions on a global scale without being bound by the official views of governments, which in return have an impact on the world’s opinion, as well as on the policy decisions of each government.

Some of the examples include the World Economic Forum (Davos), which has a large influence on the international economic policies of each country, the Shangri-La Dialogue, which provides prominent experts and ministers of the world with an opportunity to discuss Asian



Foreign Minister Motegi gives a speech at an international policy discussion (GZERO Summit) by experts (November 18, Tokyo)

security issues, and the Manama Dialogue, which deals with the security in the Middle East. In major countries, there is an ever-increasing importance to develop human resources, such as researchers and think tanks (study and research institutions) to take part in such discussions, and to utilize experts of universities and other organizations.

Expanding the intellectual base for Japan's diplomacy and security, and promoting diplomacy that involves a broad range of people is expected to yield improved diplomatic capabilities over the medium to long-term. Under this premise, MOFA launched a subsidy scheme for study/research on foreign policy and security which aims to enhance think tanks' abilities to collect/analyze/release



Submitting Communique to Foreign Minister Kono at the T20 Summit for the G20 (May 27, Tokyo)

information and to make policy recommendations. In addition, since FY2017, MOFA has also launched a subsidized support project for territory, sovereignty, and history studies.

In May 2019, the T20 (Think20), which is one of the G20 engagement groups (groups of stakeholders from the international community that are independent of governments) held its summit in Tokyo, and more than 600 people attended, including experts from G20 countries. A communique (policy recommendations) relating to the main issues at the G20 Osaka Summit was submitted to Foreign Minister Kono (see the Column on page 359).

Column

Reflecting on T20 Japan

Yoshino Naoyuki

Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Chair of T20 Japan

The Think20 (T20) was started at the G20 Summit held in Mexico in 2012. It is a policy research group comprising think tanks around the world, and its aim is to make policy recommendations to the G20 through fact-based evidence and empirical studies.

The T20 Japan 2019, the policy research group for the G20 Osaka Summit, process was led by three research institutes: the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), and the Institute for International Monetary Affairs (IIMA). It culminated in the T20 Summit in Tokyo on May 26 and 27, 2019, which brought together the best policy experts (more than 600 attendees from 50 countries) from around the world.

In his message to the T20 Summit, Prime Minister Abe, who chaired the G20 Osaka Summit, touched on the importance of the T20 to the G20 process and emphasized the value of T20's policy guidance for a wide range of policy fields, from trade and investment to infrastructural development, climate change and environment, and international finance.

The communique (policy recommendations) issued by T20 Japan stated that "G20 countries have been taking steps closer to this new global goal (to promote a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient society) with recent milestone agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement." On the other hand, it points out that many global problems still remain to be solved, such as widening inequality, poverty reduction, gender equity, climate change, and how to strengthen resilience to natural disasters. It also adds that we are facing a number of emerging challenges such as the new wave of digital innovation, aging populations, rapid changes in the dynamics of global governance, and the erosion of trust and social cohesion.

The T20's policy recommendations urge G20 countries to address these issues by taking a holistic and systematic approach to cross-cutting issues, and further, through effective and robust global governance architecture, while focusing on investment in human and physical capital.

The policy recommendations presented by 10 taskforces (TF) as the outcome of their policy debates are based on empirical studies and analysis by experts in the respective fields. For example, the taskforce on quality infrastructure investments (TF4) points out that invigorating economic activity in the surrounding areas simultaneously with infrastructural development can contribute to further enhancing the quality of the said infrastructure ("spillover effects"). It raised proposals such as further enhancing the "spillover effects" of infrastructural development in roads and railroads by combining measures to increase employment and enhance education standards in the surrounding areas, with the provision of financing through a "Furusato Investment Fund" to people who wish to establish new businesses, such as restaurants, in the surrounding areas. In addition, it was also proposed to utilize land trusts to facilitate the transfer of rights for the use of land that is required for infrastructural development. The advancement of quality infrastructural development through the application of these ideas is expected to contribute to reducing income disparity and stimulating economic development in each country.

T20 Japan also addressed the problems of aging populations and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) policy, which Japan and other countries in Asia are especially knowledgeable about.



Presentation of T20 policy recommendations to Prime Minister Abe
(Author: Center right)

It was demonstrated that the effectiveness of monetary and fiscal policies would weaken in economies with aging populations, compared to those with a large youth population. In order to maintain sustainable economic growth, there is a need to change to a wage structure based on productivity, rather than seniority, and to extend the retirement age as far as possible to realize a society where people can continue working for a long time. The aging population is a problem confronting countries such as China, the Republic of Korea, and even Thailand, and structural changes in the employment system are necessary beyond traditional monetary and fiscal policies.

With regard to SMEs, as many developing countries have a high percentage of the population employed in SMEs, the T20 recommends SME evaluation using big data, the reduction of non-performing loans by analyzing data on loans to SMEs by financial institutions, and new data analysis methods for SMEs.

Furthermore, at the T20 Summit, Professor Robert Engle, Nobel Laureate and professor at New York University, delivered a keynote speech presenting policy ideas such as inducing environmentally-friendly resource allocation through the stock market. T20 Japan, led by research institutes in Japan, successfully compiled a wide range of recommendations toward eradicating poverty, enhancing education standards, and addressing environmental issues, among others, and communicated these recommendations to the G20 countries. More than 100 individual policy recommendations have been compiled as T20 Japan policy briefs and published fully on the T20 Japan website. I hope you will take time to read through them.

(<https://t20japan.org/publications/policy-briefs/>)



T20 Summit (The author with Professor Robert Engle, Nobel Laureate in economics)