

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 and its initiatives. Specifically, regular press conferences are conducted by the Foreign Minister and the Press Secretary, while extraordinary press conferences are held as necessary. Press conferences by the Foreign Minister are live-streamed on the official MOFA YouTube channel, with the records and video of them published on MOFA's website. During foreign visits by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister, MOFA proactively provides information from visiting countries/regions via multiple means, including social media, so that people can promptly follow and understand the purposes and the outcomes of the visits. MOFA also regularly releases statements by the Foreign Minister or Press Secretary on individual international issues, expressing the position of the Government of Japan. Similarly, MOFA frequently provides press releases on its daily diplomatic activities and other topics. Additionally, the Foreign Minister and State Ministers for Foreign Affairs explain the Government's foreign policies directly to the public through appearances on various media and interviews.



Press Conference by Foreign Minister Motegi (October 22, Tokyo)

■ Dissemination of Information through Press Conferences

Minister for Foreign Affairs	97 times
Press Secretary	33 times
Total	130 times

(From January 1 to December 31, 2025)

■ Dissemination of Information through Documents

Statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs	26 times
Statements by the Press Secretary	27 times
Press releases by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2,197 times
Total	2,250 times

(From January 1 to December 31, 2025)

(3) Information Provision to the Public Through the Internet

MOFA's website (in Japanese and English) promptly provides information on the diplomatic activities of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister as well as on Japan's foreign policy including territory/sovereignty, recognition of history, and security, along with the

latest international relations and other basic relevant information.

In addition, MOFA's Japanese website provides various contents to a wide range of Japanese nationals, such as "MOFA for Kids," the "Anything Report from Around the World," and "Easy Ways to Understand International Situations." In particular, "MOFA for Kids" features videos in which MOFA officials explain MOFA's initiatives in an easy-to-understand way. It also provides Q&A corners explaining terms and international issues often covered in the news and newspapers, national flag quizzes, and other children's content such as greetings from around the world. Through "MOFA for Kids," MOFA aims to provide information that is easy for young people to understand.

In addition to the above, MOFA provides a variety of information through various social media platforms. In 2025, MOFA promptly and actively provided information about topics such as diplomatic events both within Japan and abroad (including TICAD 9), the situation in Ukraine, and the situation in the Gaza Strip.

(4) Dialogue with Japanese Nationals

It is obvious that in order to gain the public's understanding and support for foreign policy, it is important to actively and continuously disseminate information about MOFA's various activities and foreign policy to Japanese nationals of all ages. Therefore, MOFA is promoting "Public Relations through Dialogue with the People," in which MOFA officials engage in direct



MOFA's official website: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>



MOFA for Kids



MOFA official X: https://x.com/MofaJapan_en

MOFA's official website



MOFA's official X account



MOFA's official Facebook account



MOFA's official Instagram account



dialogue with the public, with the aim of promoting understanding of foreign policy and international affairs, and is carrying out various projects.

For students, mainly university students, MOFA held “Dialogue with Students” at MOFA headquarters in February, where MOFA officials and students exchanged views. The event included thematic small-group sessions on topics such as Japan-Republic of Korea (ROK) relations, which marked the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations and presentations on the theme of “Public diplomacy strategies to broaden support for Japan amid

intensifying geopolitical competition.” In addition, MOFA co-hosted “Dialogue with Students” with Nagasaki University in December, on themes including Japan’s diplomatic efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons and the role of the next generation, in light of the significance of the 80th anniversary of the end of the war and holding the event in Nagasaki City. Furthermore, under “Diplomatic Talks,” MOFA officials were dispatched to universities nationwide throughout the year to give lectures on international affairs and the latest foreign policy on a wide range of themes requested by each university, and strove to



Exchange between Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Ikuina and children at “Children’s Kasumigaseki Tour Day” (August 6, MOFA)



Small-Group Session at “Dialogue with Students” (students in discussion with MOFA officials) (February 13, MOFA)



“Talks for High School” lecture (on initiatives toward a world without nuclear weapons) (June 11, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture)



“Visits by Elementary, Junior and Senior High School Students to MOFA” (experiencing African culture in the lead-up to TICAD 9) (May 13, MOFA)



The diplomatic magazine “Gaiko” (Diplomacy)

deepen university students' knowledge and understanding of diplomacy in general.

For younger age groups such as senior high school and junior high school students, with the aim of increasing interest in diplomacy among the generation that will bear the future, various programs are conducted both online and in-person. These include "Talks for High School," under which MOFA officials are dispatched to high schools across Japan, and "Visits by Elementary, Junior, and Senior High School Students to MOFA," in which students visit MOFA and engage in discussions with MOFA officials. Through these activities, MOFA introduces its concrete initiatives and the latest international situation, contributing to the development of human resources who will play active roles in the international community. In addition, at the "Children's Kasumigaseki Tour Day" held in August, MOFA ran a variety of programs, including lectures and an exchange with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs IKUINA Akiko, to help children and those accompanying them deepen their understanding of MOFA's work and countries around the world.

For the general public, MOFA holds "Lectures on the International Situations," co-hosted with local governments and international exchange organizations across the country, with the aim of providing many citizens with opportunities to engage with foreign policy and increasing their interest in international affairs. Additionally, through the publication of the diplomatic magazine "Gaiko" (Diplomacy), the current status of international affairs surrounding Japan and various opinions and discussions on diplomacy are widely introduced to the public. In 2025, the magazine featured a variety of diplomatic issues that provided an overview of the current international situation, including analysis of the diverse ways in which countries manage their relations with the U.S., the situation surrounding Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, and the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, with multifaceted considerations of the emerging vision of a new international order accompanying these developments. The magazine featured a large number of articles by prominent domestic and international experts.

Moreover, various pamphlets are created for a wide range of readers in order to gain a deeper understanding of MOFA's organization and Japanese diplomacy.

In addition to the above, MOFA hears comments and opinions from the public through its website. Comments and opinions from the public are accordingly shared within 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 in the declassification of records and in efforts to facilitate greater convenience in the public use of diplomatic documents. Since 1976, MOFA has declassified its postwar diplomatic records over time as a voluntary initiative. The Rules on the Declassification of Diplomatic Records, which were established in 2010, stipulate: (a) the declassification of diplomatic documents created or obtained more than 30 years ago in principle, and (b) 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 that have been transferred to the Diplomatic Archives and made public since then reached approximately 40,000 by the end of 2025. Furthermore, MOFA has disclosed information pursuant to the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs, while giving consideration to national security, the relationship of mutual trust with other countries, the impact on diplomatic negotiations, and the protection of personal information. In 2025, MOFA received 997 requests for disclosure, and documents totaling 32,680 pages were disclosed.

Holding around 120,000 diplomatic documents including 40,000 from the pre-war period, MOFA's Diplomatic Archives are specified as "the National Archives of Japan, etc." under the Public Records and Archives Management Act (Archives Management Act). The Archives respond to viewing and usage requests, answer inquiries regarding documents in the collection and diplomatic history, and display materials in the collection. In addition, the Archives have compiled

important diplomatic documents since 1868 by theme and published them in succession as the “Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy,” and since 1988 has also published an annual report.

Furthermore, the Archives’ new Exhibition Room — which relocated to the fifth floor of the Azabudai Hills Mori JP Tower and reopened in April 2024 — makes use of its advantageous location at a new landmark in Tokyo to display diplomatic documents such as major treaties from the final days of the Tokugawa Shogunate to the present day, introducing the history of Japan’s diplomacy. In 2025, using materials held by the Diplomatic Archives, the Archives also held the Special Exhibition on “Portrait of YOSHIDA Shigeru: Through Precious Historical Documents” planned to mark the first anniversary of the renewal of the new Exhibition Room, an exhibition commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Normalization of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and ROK and the Special Exhibition on “Japan’s orientation as a peace-loving nation” commemorating the 80th anniversary of the



Japan's orientation as a peace-loving nation

end of World War II and the founding of the United Nations (UN). The Archives are also actively engaged in introducing the history of Japanese diplomacy to younger audiences, particularly elementary, junior, and senior high school students.

2 Strengthening the Foreign Policy Implementation Structure

(1) Organization, Personnel, and Budget

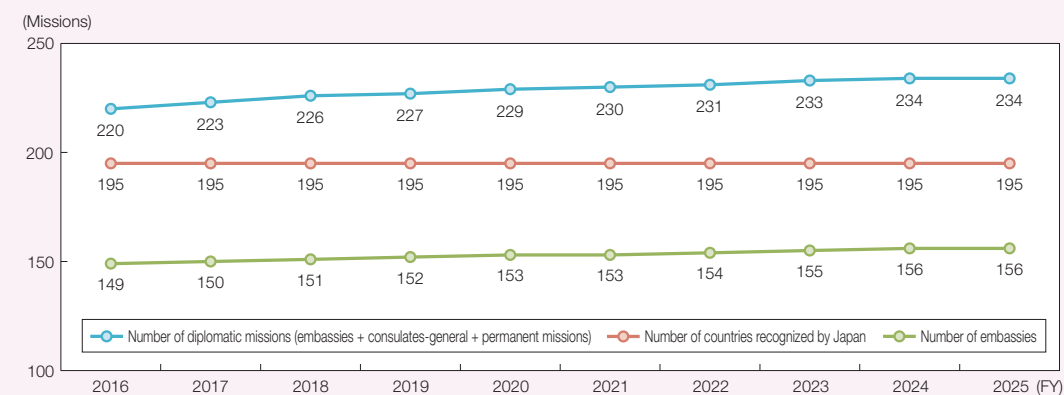
While Japan is facing the most severe and complex security environment in the post-war era, it is vital to fundamentally strengthen the foreign policy and consular implementation structure to promote diplomatic power for maintaining and developing a free and open international order based on the rule of law. To that end, MOFA is working on strengthening its diplomatic missions overseas in both the aspects of quantity and quality, as well as advancing efforts to improve the organizational and personnel systems at MOFA itself. In FY2025, in order to address foreign policy in a more agile and strategic manner than ever before amid a rapidly changing international situation, MOFA carried out organizational reforms, including the establishment and consolidation of divisions and offices, at the Minister's Secretariat, the Foreign Policy Bureau, the European Affairs Bureau, the Economic Affairs Bureau, and the Consular Affairs Bureau.

Diplomatic missions overseas, such as embassies and consulates general, not only represent Japan and

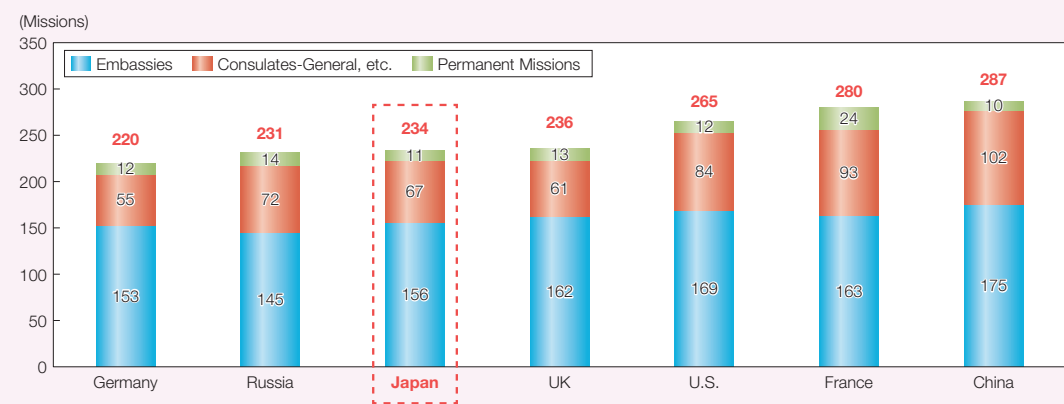
engage in diplomatic activities, but also play a key role in areas such as information-gathering and strategic external communication at the frontline of diplomacy. At the same time, diplomatic missions also carry out operations directly related to enhancing the interests of Japanese nationals, such as protecting their lives and safety, providing support for Japanese companies, promoting investment and tourism, and securing energy and other resources.

In addition, it is important to secure and increase the number of staff members to support diplomacy at the MOFA headquarters and diplomatic missions overseas. In the context of the current severe budget and staffing situation for the Government overall, the number of staff members at MOFA was increased in FY2025 by 87 to 6,761 from FY2024 in order to deepen relations with its ally and like-minded countries, strengthen cooperation with countries of the Global South, advance economic diplomacy including support for Japanese companies, strengthen initiatives toward the era of information warfare, and strengthen protection

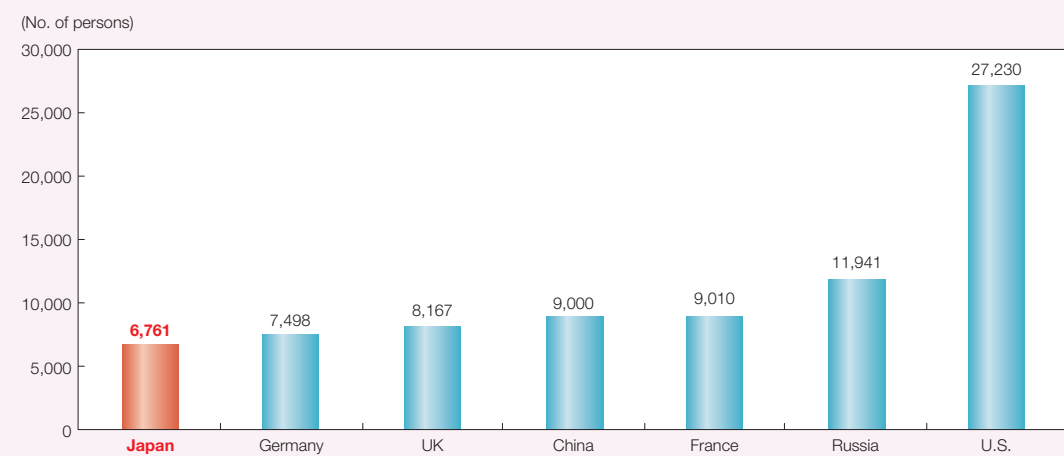
Changes in the Number of Diplomatic Missions



Comparison of the Number of Diplomatic Missions of Japan with Major Countries (P5 + Germany)

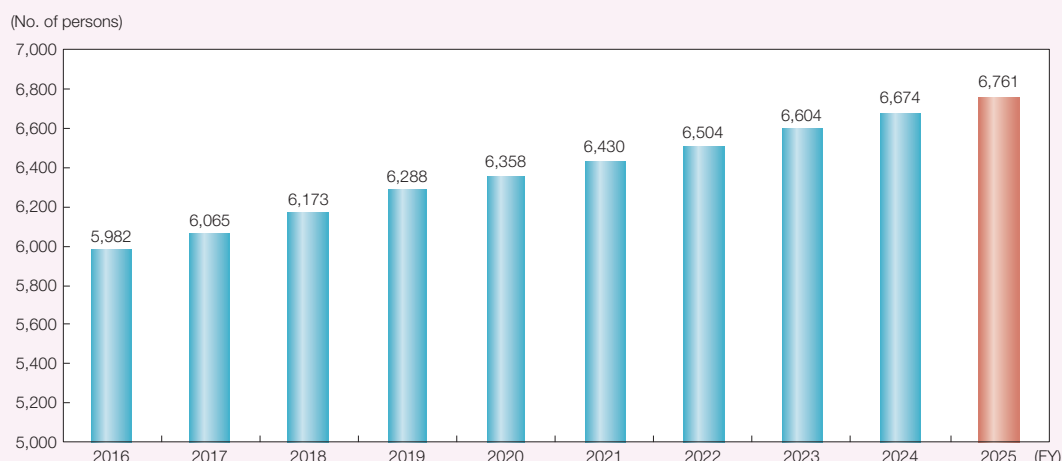


Comparison of the Number of Staff Members at Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Major Countries



Note: Based on the FY2025 survey result, etc.

Number of Staff Members at MOFA



measures for Japanese nationals abroad and the consular structure. The number of staff members, 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, based on the belief that enhancing the diplomatic and consular implementation structure remains essential in FY2026, MOFA will increase its workforce by 91 staff.⁽¹⁾

In order to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law, MOFA appropriated 761.7 billion yen in the initial budget for FY2025. Furthermore, MOFA appropriated 184.4 billion yen in the supplementary budget for FY2025. The funding appropriated in the supplementary budget was for measures addressing pressing issues related to Japan and the world, including measures relating to “AI, cyber, and GX,” which were designated as “strategic sectors” by the Headquarters for Japan's Growth Strategy established by Prime Minister Takaichi; measures contributing to the overseas expansion of Japanese companies and to economic security; support for Ukraine; and measures relating to cooperation with the Global South and like-minded countries. MOFA's FY2026 government budget proposal appropriated 817.0 billion yen based on the following priorities to be realized:

(a) pursuing Japan's security and economic prosperity,

(b) developing an international environment that contributes to Japan's national interests, and (c) strengthening the consular implementation structure for the protection of Japanese nationals. This includes budgets for initiatives toward forming an international order desirable for Japan (including realizing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)”), for strengthening relationships with countries of the Global South, for support for Ukraine and Palestine as well as countries affected by the situation, for Official Security Assistance (OSA), for rule-making that underpins a free and fair international economic order and support for the overseas expansion of Japanese companies, for the fundamental strengthening of cultural diplomacy aimed at boosting trust, favorability, and a sense of closeness toward Japan — including people-to-people and cultural exchanges that expand the circle of people with a great affinity toward or knowledge of Japan — and for strengthening initiatives toward the era of information warfare. In order to pursue Japan's national interests amid a severe international situation, Japan will continue to proceed strategically to develop the diplomatic and consular implementation structure including by executing the budget even more efficiently, while making efforts to streamline operations.

⁽¹⁾ Includes special provision (for one year only) for four additional new recruits in accordance with the increase in the compulsory retirement age.

(2) Information Collection and Analysis contributing to Japan's Diplomacy

Japan is facing the most severe and complex security environment since the end of World War II. In the vicinity of Japan, military buildup, including the development of nuclear weapons and missiles, is rapidly advancing, coupled with mounting attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force. At the same time, the persistent occurrence of information warfare, through the dissemination of disinformation increasingly blurs boundaries between peacetime and wartime. In an increasingly uncertain international environment, collecting and analyzing information accurately in order to protect Japan's national interests and ensure the security of Japanese people is becoming more essential.

MOFA has consistently strengthened its information collection and analysis capabilities in response to evolving international developments. In the beginning of the 21st century, based on the necessity of making further rapid and flexible responses to the transforming international situation — including the 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the subsequent situation in Iraq — the Intelligence and Analysis Bureau was reorganized into the Intelligence and Analysis Service (IAS) in 2004. Subsequently, in order to deal with an increasingly severe and complex security environment in 2023, under the Director-General for Intelligence and Analysis Service, IAS regrouped its divisions into the Management Group and the Analysis Group. The

former group is responsible for organizational management, and the latter for analysis.

IAS is a specialized department in MOFA that collects and analyzes information on international affairs with a view to providing intelligence contributing to Japan's foreign policy and security. IAS produces objective and evidence-based intelligence products, independently from policy departments formulating foreign policy, while also bearing in mind developments of the international situation and key international events. IAS contributes to the formulation and decision-making of foreign and security policies by directly providing such intelligence in a timely manner to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, policy departments within MOFA, and the Prime Minister's Office as well as the National Security Secretariat.

Utilizing analysts' regional and sector-based expertise, IAS conducts all-source analysis (comprehensive analysis through various information sources) based on information obtained through Japan's overseas missions; open source information collected through the use of emerging technologies such as AI; information obtained from relevant ministries and foreign governments; and imagery information obtained through Information-Gathering Satellites and other sources.

The importance of collecting and analyzing information on international affairs will continue to increase, and MOFA will continue to work to further strengthen its intelligence capabilities in various ways.

Column

Executive Chef for the Ambassador
at the Embassy of Japan in India

IKUSHIMA Takuya

My name is IKUSHIMA Takuya, and I have been serving as Executive Chef for the Ambassador at the Embassy of Japan in India since October 2024. India, which has the world's largest population and with which Japan has established a Special Strategic and Global Partnership, is a country where dinners and receptions at the Ambassador's official residence provide important opportunities for deepening favorable relations in all areas, including politics and the economy. I feel nervous every time, but when I have the opportunity to greet guests after a meal, I often receive compliments, which makes this an extremely rewarding job.

Among the guests at these dinners, there was a vegetarian guest who told me that "it was the best meal I have ever had," and at another reception there was a guest who came looking for me to shake my hand after I had served all of the sushi.

What I am most mindful of when serving food is expressing Japan's spirit of hospitality, "*omotenashi*," in a way that is tailored to each guest, while also incorporating Indian ingredients and cooking methods. With each dish I serve, I put my heart into hoping that guests will feel, even just a little, a connection to the Japan-India friendship, and I devote myself to cooking every day.

In India, beef and pork are avoided for religious reasons, and the country has one of the world's largest vegetarian populations, so menu planning is a challenge. However, I constantly devise creative dishes within these constraints to ensure that all guests are pleased. When hosting Indian and international guests, I consult with the Ambassador to serve *kaiseki* cuisine that evokes Japan. When hosting guests visiting India from Japan, I serve a dish based on Indian cuisine as one course of the meal.

Outside of New Delhi, where the Embassy is located, I take advantage of my vacation time to travel to various parts of India, sampling a wide range of regional cuisines to deepen my understanding of Indian food culture. I also make a point of drawing on these ideas in dinners at the official residence, and of adjusting the seasoning to suit Indian tastes. Not only traditional Indian cuisine, but also modern Indian restaurants influenced by Japan and Europe are increasing in number, which I find extremely informative. The opportunities to interact and exchange views with Indian chefs from various parts of the country are something that I feel is unique to the position of executive chef. Indian chefs ask me about Japanese ingredients and cooking utensils, while I, in turn, learn from them about Indian ingredients and cuisine.

There are always areas for daily improvement, but I feel that the role of executive chef is one that, by working overseas, allows me to encounter cultures that I could never experience in Japan, and that offers opportunities for growth even for someone like me who is over fifty years old. I intend to continue working to contribute to Japan's diplomacy as an executive chef, while also enjoying life in India.



Entertaining Indian guests in the Tempura Room of the Ambassador's official residence (the author in the center)



Appetizer assortment incorporating an arrangement of "pani puri," an Indian street food



"Rasmalai," an Indian dessert, arranged in a Western style

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reviewed the existing Executive Chefs for Ambassadors/Consuls-General of Japan program and launched a new "Program for Official Chefs of Japan's Overseas Diplomatic Missions" in January 2026.

You can also read more about the activities of Executive Chefs for Ambassadors/Consuls-General of Japan through the "MOFA Japan Chef" social media accounts (Facebook and X (Japanese only)).

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Mofa-JapanChef>



X:
https://x.com/mofa_japan_chef



Column

Construction of New Overseas Establishment Facilities in Climates, Natural Features, and Environments Different from Japan

Were you aware that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has a role called “Overseas Buildings and Repairs?” As “the face of Japan,” overseas establishments such as Japanese embassies abroad provide the bases and venues for Japan’s diplomatic activities, and in emergencies they serve as the last “strongholds” for protecting Japanese nationals. Overseas Buildings and Repairs consists of designing, constructing, and maintaining these facilities. It supports diplomatic activities from the ground up while sharing in the heavy responsibility of safeguarding the lives of Japanese nationals living abroad. Here, we feature MITSUO, a technical official at the Embassy of Japan in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), who is in charge of new construction work on the official residence of the Ambassador. She describes the work that technical officials do.

■ Construction Right on the Equator: Challenges in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I am responsible for overseeing the construction of a new official residence for Japanese Ambassador to the DRC in Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC. The area has a tropical monsoon climate: for about nine months of the year the rainy season brings frequent downpours, and during the remaining three months of the dry season dust is constantly stirred up, causing deterioration of exterior walls even on relatively new buildings. In such an environment, the current official residence — a private home built in 1958 (67 years since construction) that was purchased and put to use — had seen significant soiling and deterioration of its exterior walls. In addition, frequent voltage fluctuations and power outages led to repeated failures of electrical and mechanical equipment, and interruption to the water supply, making it impossible to avoid impacts on diplomatic activities. Therefore, I am engaged in the new construction work on the official residence as the supervising officer, with the aim of ensuring stable diplomatic activities and securing and enhancing the functions required to serve as the “last stronghold” for protecting Japanese nationals in emergencies.

Regarding building conditions in the DRC, no earthquakes have been observed over the past several decades, and buildings are seldom exposed to strong winds such as typhoons. As a result, many structures have far more rudimentary construction than those in Japan. Partly for that reason, local workers sometimes proceed with low-precision work on their own judgment, so vigilant supervision is constantly required.

Procuring materials is no less challenging than the construction work itself. Materials confirmed as available at the design stage sometimes become unavailable by the time construction begins, and performance testing of locally manufactured products has on occasion shown them to be unsuitable for use, frequently necessitating consideration of alternative materials. To ensure that the building and its systems perform better and last longer, I evaluate alternative materials with an eye to improving the future maintainability of the facilities — not only by ensuring construction quality, but also by selecting materials that can be easily procured locally.

Carrying out construction in an environment where the language, climate, culture, and customs all differ from Japan is no easy task. However, through direct and repeated engagement with local counterparts, I have found that we can realize a Japanese design approach adapted to local conditions; and through the development of facilities at the official residence that serves as the stage for diplomatic activities, we can showcase Japan’s appeal. That sense of fulfillment and enjoyment is unique to overseas buildings and repairs work. I will continue striving toward the completion of a building that will serve as a symbol of Japan.



Site inspection with local engineers (the author, foreground)

MOFA recruits Overseas Buildings and Repairs Officers from candidates who have passed the National Civil Service Examination for General Service (University Graduate Level), Technical Categories (Examination Categories: Architecture, Digital/Electrical/Electronics, Machinery, and “Liberal Arts”).

 Column

Imagery Intelligence Analyst — An Intelligence Specialist Viewing the World from Space —

Are you familiar with the term “imagery intelligence (IMINT)”?

“IMINT” is one of the intelligence methods for collecting and analyzing information obtained from imagery. The collection and analysis of information on the international situation is indispensable to the effective conduct of diplomacy, and imagery information obtained from satellites and other sources is one important source of such information.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), “Imagery Intelligence Analysts,” who are dedicated specialists in the analysis of imagery information, provide daily situational briefings to relevant personnel in the fields of security and the protection of Japanese nationals overseas, making full use of the value of imagery information — timeliness and objectivity — in Japan’s diplomatic activities.

■ Voices of an Imagery Intelligence Analyst

I have been engaged in imagery intelligence analysis work for a long time. Imagery analysis is an extremely painstaking task; however, in recent years, the utility of satellite imagery analysis has been widely recognized, and I feel that the importance of imagery in MOFA’s information collection and analysis has been growing as well.

In recent years, social media and other platforms have become widespread, and open-source information is abundant. Such information sometimes conveys the truth, but at times it also contains misinformation. In this regard, information derived from satellite imagery is objective, and it is being used extensively to ascertain what the facts are.

By combining imagery information with a variety of other sources and conducting composite and multi-layered analysis, the accuracy of situational assessments can be enhanced. To this end, I routinely combine imagery information with various sources, including open-source information, exchange views with specialists in diverse fields, and actively incorporate their knowledge and experience into the analytical process.

Japan is facing the increasingly severe security environment. When delivering situational briefings to MOFA senior officials who are directly involved in foreign policy decisions, I am frequently reminded of the gravity that my analysis and assessments carry, and I feel the weight of the great responsibility I bear. At the same time, I derive a strong sense of purpose from knowing that my analysis contributes to some part of Japan’s foreign policy.

3 The Roles of Think Tanks and Experts in Diplomacy

The roles of think tanks and experts in diplomacy include promoting public understanding of diplomatic and security issues in a way that is not constrained by official government views, making intellectual contributions that produce ideas for diplomatic and security policies, building global intellectual networks, and communicating Japan's perspectives to other countries. Seminars and news commentaries for the general public by think tanks and experts are essential for deepening public understanding of diplomatic and security issues as well as the government's standpoint, and gaining public understanding can further enhance the effectiveness of the government's diplomatic activities. Moreover, gathering information, conducting analyses, and making policy recommendations by leveraging expertise and viewpoints that are different from the ones of the government also enrich discussions on diplomatic policies within the government. Global intellectual exchanges are also important in the sense that they promote understanding of Japan among various countries and regions, and contribute to shaping public opinions in the international community. With the growing complexity and uncertainty in the international community, the roles of think tanks and experts in diplomacy are becoming increasingly important.

Against this backdrop, MOFA provides subsidies to support Japanese think tanks' research activities in the field of foreign and security policy, in order to strengthen their capabilities to collect, analyze and disseminate information, to make policy proposals, and to further promote Japan's comprehensive diplomacy.

In FY2025, the scheme provided support to 13 projects under six organizations, and it is effectively promoting policy proposals to policymakers that are in line with the ever-changing diplomatic and security environment, exchanges of opinions with overseas think tanks and experts, the publication of papers and commentaries activities and communications via the media by experts, and hosting symposiums which lead international debate. Furthermore, MOFA launched a new subsidy scheme in FY2017 that aims at supporting research and information dissemination activities of Japanese think tanks in the areas of territory, sovereignty and history. Under the scheme, the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) conducts such activities as the collection, analyses, and public release of materials found in Japan and overseas, as well as the convention of open symposiums in cooperation with overseas think tanks and the dissemination of research results both domestically and internationally. Through this scheme, in FY2025 lectures and discussions were held on the territorial issues as part of research and information dissemination activities regarding Japan's territory and history. In addition, young researchers from Asia visited Japan to deepen understanding of issues regarding Japan's territory, sovereignty and history, engaging with Japanese researchers and building research networks. It is expected that the scheme will support Japanese think tanks in accumulating historical records and knowledge pertaining to Japan's territory, sovereignty and history, and enhancing their information dissemination domestically and abroad.