In the post-war period, Japan has become the world’s second largest economic power. Never turning into a military power and always observing pacifism, Japan has played an active role in achieving world peace and prosperity by contributing financially, such as through Official Development Assistance and contributions to the UN, and by personnel contributions, such as participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

Excerpt from the General Policy Speech by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the 1462nd Session of the National Diet in January 2005
The path of a nation striving for global peace

During a certain period of the past, Japan followed a mistaken national policy and caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations, through its colonial rule and aggression. Japan squarely faces these facts of history in a spirit of humility. With feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology always engraved in mind, Japan, underpinned by its solid democracy, has resolutely and consistently strived for peace by adhering to a strictly defensive security policy, preventing the escalation of international conflict, and dedicating itself to international peace and stability by mobilizing all its available resources. It has adhered to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.* During these 60 years, Japan has never resorted to the use of force.

Rising from the ashes of war, Japan has developed into the world’s second largest economic power and shares global responsibilities. Japan has been making international contributions for the peace, security, and prosperity of the international community through the United Nations (UN) and various channels, and by providing Official Development Assistance (ODA). In the years to come, Japan, as a nation striving for global peace with major responsibilities in the world, will continue to play a substantial role in the global community in order to make the world a better place to live in.

Postwar settlement

After the end of World War II, Japan renounced all rights, titles and claims to Korea, Taiwan, the Kurile Islands, a portion of Sakhalin, and other territories, and accepted the judgments of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo Trial), in which 25 Japanese leaders had been convicted of war crimes. Many other Japanese were convicted in other war crimes courts. Japan has dealt with the issues of reparations, property and claims, in accordance with the San Francisco Peace Treaty, the bilateral peace treaties, agreements and instruments. Japan paid reparations to Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, while others waived them. After the normalization of its relations with the Republic of Korea, China and other countries, Japan extended a substantial amount of economic cooperation. With the parties to these documents, the issues of reparations, property and claims, including the claims by individuals, have been settled legally.*

*With Russia, a peace treaty has yet to be concluded, Japan and Russia have been continuing negotiations to conclude a peace treaty through resolving the Northern Territories issue. Japan’s policy toward North Korea is to make comprehensive normalization based on the Four-Party Declaration, and thereby normalizes relations in a manner that would contribute to the peace and stability of Northeast Asia.


Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi addressing the Asian-African Summit

‘In the past, Japan, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations, Japan squarely faces these facts of history in a spirit of humility. With feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology always engraved in mind, Japan has resolutely maintained, consistently since the end of World War II, never turning into a military power but an economic power, its principle of resolving all matters by peaceful means, without recourse to use of force.’

Prime Minister Nakasone Yasuhiro addressing the San Francisco Peace Conference (1951)
Economic reconstruction and reintegration into the international economy

Aid from the world

The Japanese worked hard for the reconstruction of the country, but the rapid recovery would not have been possible without the assistance provided by the United States and the international community. In 1955, production reached a peak with the pre-war level. The first Olympic Games in Asia were held in Tokyo in 1964 and the World Exposition was held in Osaka in 1970, symbolizing the reconstruction of the Japanese economy. Today, as the second largest industrialized economy, Japan plays an active role in rule-making for the international economy.

The free trade system and EPAs

The cornerstone of Japan's external economic policy has been the reinforcement of a multilateral trading system through GATT and the WTO. In recent years, Japan has been working to conclude Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) to complement the multilateral free trade system. It has already concluded EPAs with Singapore and Mexico and is now negotiating mainly with East Asian countries.

International cooperation toward peace

Contributions through the UN

Japan has served nine times as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. Many Japanese have been playing an active role as UN staff, including former UNHCR Sadako Ogata. Financially, Japan is the second largest contributor to the UN. Japan is prepared to play a more constructive role in a reformed United Nations as a new permanent member of the expanded Security Council.

Disarmament and non-proliferation

The strengthening of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime is essential. Japan, as the only country ever to have experienced nuclear bombing, not only observes its declared Three Non-Nuclear Principles but also works actively to create a peaceful and safe world free from nuclear weapons.

Peace-keeping, peace-building, humanitarian reconstruction support

The thorough solution of conflicts demands seamless assistance ranging from humanitarian emergency relief to assistance for conflict termination, reconstruction and development, and Japan has dispatched its Self-Defense Forces to participate in UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) in Cambodia, Mozambique, the Golan Heights and Timor-Leste. In the fight against terrorism after the September 11 attacks, Japan has worked to give positive support to the United Nations. Furthermore, Japan has been contributing to the reconstruction of Iraq through the deployment of the Self-Defense Forces in parallel with the extension of its ODA. Japan will continue to actively participate in international cooperation in this domain.
Official Development Assistance

World’s leading donor country
Since Japan started extending ODA in 1954, it has provided a total of 230 billion dollars to 185 countries and regions. In the past 10 years, Japan has provided one-fifth of the total ODA, placing emphasis on developing countries’ efforts for self-help and the concept of human security.

For Asia and Africa
Japan has provided 60% of its ODA to the countries in Asia. The improved economic infrastructure and investment climate resulting from Japan’s ODA has led to an increased inflow of foreign direct investment and the expansion of experts. Assistance provided in the field of education and public health has contributed substantially to the human resource development of Asian countries. As for cooperation to Africa, Japan has led international discussions on African development through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process since 1993 and will host TICAD IV in 2008. Japan will double its ODA to Africa in the next three years.

Human resources development
Human resources development is the foundation of nation-building. Since 1954, Japan has trained more than 270,000 people from 193 countries and regions and has sent more than 90,000 experts and volunteers to countries all over the world.

Culture
Japan has been providing support to developing countries in their national efforts to promote their culture, improve higher education and preserve their cultural and historical heritage. The total amount of Japan’s Cultural Grant Aid extended is US$ 502.8 million (FY 1991-2002).

NGOs
The Japanese government has been strengthening its partnership with NGOs. A system has been introduced to enable the government to provide financial support to NGOs for their own aid projects in developing countries.

Environment and disaster reduction
Environmental protection is a major focus of Japanese cooperation and about 30% of Japanese ODA is related to this field. Besides advancing the Kyoto Protocol, Japan has been offering the international community its know-how on disaster reduction through the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and two World Conferences. Japan is providing substantial assistance to the countries affected by the Dec. 26 tsunami, including through the creation of a tsunami early warning system.

Japan’s Contribution to Global ODA (1994-2002)

Japan’s Contribution in the Sectors of Education and Water and Sanitation (Share of DAC total (2003))

Education
- Other 22%
- The Netherlands 6%
- USA 6%
- Japan 18%

Water and Sanitation
- Other 19%
- The Netherlands 4%
- USA 6%
- Japan 46%
- France 6%
- Germany 17%

Responses toward attaining the Millennium Development Goals
The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the World Summit Declaration in 2000 are the goals on which the international community has eagerly agreed. Japan, as a major donor in education, water supply, health care and environmental protection, and PRC, Japan, is providing support to the MDGs, contributing efforts toward achieving these goals.

Japan’s Bilateral ODA by Region (1997) (fixed disbursement basis)
- Asia 53.6%
- Other 18.8%
- Vietnam 8.8%
- Indonesia 19.6%
- The Philippines 8.1%
- Other 16.3%

Japan’s Contribution to Global ODA (1994-2002)

Japan-Singapore Economic Agreement for a New Age Partnership signed

The International Peace Cooperation Law enacted

Maritime Self-Defense Forces’ fuel supply operations started in the Indian Ocean

Self-Defense Forces dispatched to Iraq

Japan-Mexico Economic Partnership Agreement signed

Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement signed

First Summit Meeting of the industrial democracies
Second Oil Crisis
Plaza Accord reached
Collapse of the Berlin Wall
WTO established
Sept 11: Terrorist attacks in the US

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
JAPANESE EVENT


WORLD EVENT


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First Summit Meeting of the industrial democracies
Second Oil Crisis
Plaza Accord reached
Collapse of the Berlin Wall
WTO established
Sept 11: Terrorist attacks in the US

NGOs working actively in Afghanistan resolution

Assistance by the Self-Defense Forces, Namibia and East Timor the Indian Ocean

Project in Cambodia