

# New strategy to counter the threat of terrorism

(Japan's new assistance package to Afghanistan and Pakistan)

## 1. Afghanistan

### 【Background】

- After the 9.11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the Taliban administration of Afghanistan which had protected Al Qaida collapsed as a result of military operations by the US-led multinational forces. Al Qaida and leaders of Taliban fled to the border regions and into Pakistan.
- In Afghanistan, security operations by ISAF established by a UN Security Council resolution have been successful to a certain extent and the international community has been supporting nation-building.
- However, peace dividends have not reached every corner of the country and some people support the insurgents for economic and other causes. With increased power of the Taliban forces, the security situation has deteriorated in recent years without considerable improvement of people's living standards.

### 【Current Challenges】

- With the people in Afghanistan in fatigue after eight years of war since 9.11, improving security and developing state institutions will be the first priority for the new Government of Afghanistan. To this end, strengthening its security forces is vital.
- However, to improve Afghanistan's security, political measures will also be required. Among the insurgents, some moderate groups seem to be willing to put their arms down in exchange for security assurance and economic independence. The new Government is likely to address reintegration of those people. It will be an indispensable component towards stability of the country for the Government of Afghanistan to lead the reintegration process and for the international community to support such efforts.
- For the Government of Afghanistan to obtain confidence from its own people and to lay the grounds for long term political reconciliation, it is essential to stabilize people's lives and establish economic foundations. Tangible outcomes recognized by the people will be critical in areas of agriculture and rural development, infrastructure development, and education, health and other basic human needs.
- It is vital to strengthen the capability of the people of Afghanistan themselves to tackle with their own challenges (Afghanization). It will be most effective for the international community to support the Afghans' efforts from behind.

## Japan's strategy and commitment

Japan will provide assistance of approximately 80 billion yen urgently needed in Afghanistan. Shifting up from the existing pledge of a total of approximately two billion US dollars, Japan will provide assistance up to an amount in the region of five billion US dollars in about five years from 2009, based on the future situation of Afghanistan.

<Three main areas of Japan's assistance>

① Containment of insurgencies is essential towards ensuring security in Afghanistan and enabling Afghans to attain rebuilding the nation by their own hands. To that end, Japan will exert utmost support in enhancing Afghanistan's capability to maintain security. Japan will pave the way for the Afghans to take their own security responsibilities by such assistance as supporting the National Police.

② For reintegration and long term reconciliation with the insurgents, it is important to begin with working on reintegration of grass root level soldiers. Construction of effective measures that would allow them to sustain their own lives and resettle into the society in the long term is essential. The Afghans themselves need to build such measures. Japan, by utilizing our experiences and expertise from DDR and DIAG\*, will involve ourselves from the planning stage and provide financial assistance to programs such as vocational training and small scale rural development programs for job creation.

\*DDR: Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration DIAG: Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups

③ Japan will support advancing nation-building efforts that attract the Afghan people. For Afghanistan's sustainable and self reliant development, Japan will provide assistance in areas such as agriculture and rural development, infrastructure development (including energy), education, health and other basic human needs based on the Afghanistan's needs. In addition, Japan will aim to stabilize Afghanistan also by promoting the development of neighboring Central Asia region which we recognize as one theater.

## 2. Pakistan

### 【Background】

- After 9.11, the military campaign conducted by the multinational forces in Afghanistan led to the flight of Taliban insurgents into Pakistan but the Taliban maintained strength in the border region and executed cross border attacks into Afghanistan. For the stability of Afghanistan, Pakistan's cooperation is essential.
- With lax economic management by Pakistan and global recession, Pakistan's fiscal situation deteriorated and poverty expanded. Among the border areas, especially the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) suffers poverty. The federal government's effective rule does not reach FATA and it has become a safe haven for domestic and international insurgents. Basing in FATA, such groups are conducting terrorist attacks in various places in Pakistan.

### 【Current Challenges】

- The military operation against the insurgency in Malakand Division in NWFP (North West Frontier Province) in the spring of 2009, led to the displacement of 3.5 million (currently 1.5 million) people. For the two million returned, there is still a need for recovery and rehabilitation. Assistance for the 1.7 million Afghan refugees in the border region is also important.
- The government of Pakistan is conducting military operations in Southern Waziristan of FATA which led to an outbreak of more internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- For the Government of Pakistan to continue confronting terrorism with firm determination, carrying out domestic economic reform to build a strong economic foundation to support counter terrorism efforts is also very important.

## Japan's strategy and commitment

Japan continues to swiftly implement the pledge in April 2009 of assistance up to one billion US dollars in two years.

- ① Assistance for economic growth (energy sector such as electricity, infrastructure development) and for macroeconomic reform (syndicated loan with the World Bank). Improvement of people's livelihood by providing assistance in poverty reduction (health, basic education, rural development).
- ② Improve people's livelihood in regions such as NWFP including Malakand Division, and FATA. Assistance for IDPs and Afghan refugees.