



Japan's Efforts on Peacebuilding

~ Towards Consolidation of Peace and Nation-Building ~



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I Overview

Why Peacebuilding Assistance?

Since the end of the Cold War, an increasing number of countries have experienced civil wars and regional conflicts. Prolonged conflicts shatter the states involved and destroy their ability to govern. The "failed states" produced by conflicts have become a source of serious concern for the international community as they may foment international terrorism and encourage the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. With statistics showing that around half of resolved conflicts recur within five years after the conclusion of peace agreements, the idea of "peacebuilding," which employs a coherent strategy and provides seamless support in various phases, from conflict resolution and peacekeeping to reconstruction and development, is now a very important international agenda.

A variety of efforts have been made to address the challenges of peacebuilding in the international community. The number of peacekeeping operations has grown, and the scope of their mandates has been expanded; Multi-lateral National Forces have also become more diversified in their modes of operation; the Peacebuilding Commission has been established in the United Nations; Peace Support Operations (PSOs) have been under extensive discussion at the G8 summits; and development programs increasingly take into account the dimension of conflict.

Embracing this trend in the international community, Japan has been devoting considerable efforts to peacebuilding. Japan's peace and security is interlinked with the international peace and stability. It is therefore in the interest of Japan's own peace and security to actively support peacebuilding activities in coordination with the international community. "The National Defense Program Guideline for FY 2005 and After" states that one of the

objectives of Japan's security policy is "to improve the international security environment so as to reduce the chances that any threat will reach Japan in the first place."

While support for peacebuilding constitutes part of Japan's duties as a responsible member of the international community, it also represents an opportunity for Japan to make good use of its post-war experiences and accomplishments as a "nation of peace" thereby further enhancing its international standing.

In a policy speech delivered in November 2006 entitled "Arc of Freedom and Prosperity," Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Aso stated that striving to create affluent, stable regions grounded in such universal values as freedom and democracy is a new pillar of Japanese diplomacy, and that peacebuilding support is an important policy tool to expand freedom and prosperity throughout the world.

Basic Principles and Features of Japan's Peacebuilding Support

(1) "Consolidation of peace" and "nation-building"

Peacebuilding is a multidimensional task that requires a comprehensive and coherent approach. Japan has been promoting the approach of "consolidation of peace" and "nation-building" since May 2002, when Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi first proposed this idea in a policy speech delivered in Sydney, Australia.

Peacebuilding begins with the efforts to "consolidate peace," namely, to push forward process of peace, bring in humanitarian aid such as assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), restore domestic security, and realize justice and reconciliation. This phase is followed by a process of "nation-building," towards a democratic and independent nation through the development of political, judicial, and administrative systems,

the development of economic infrastructure, and improvement in healthcare and education.

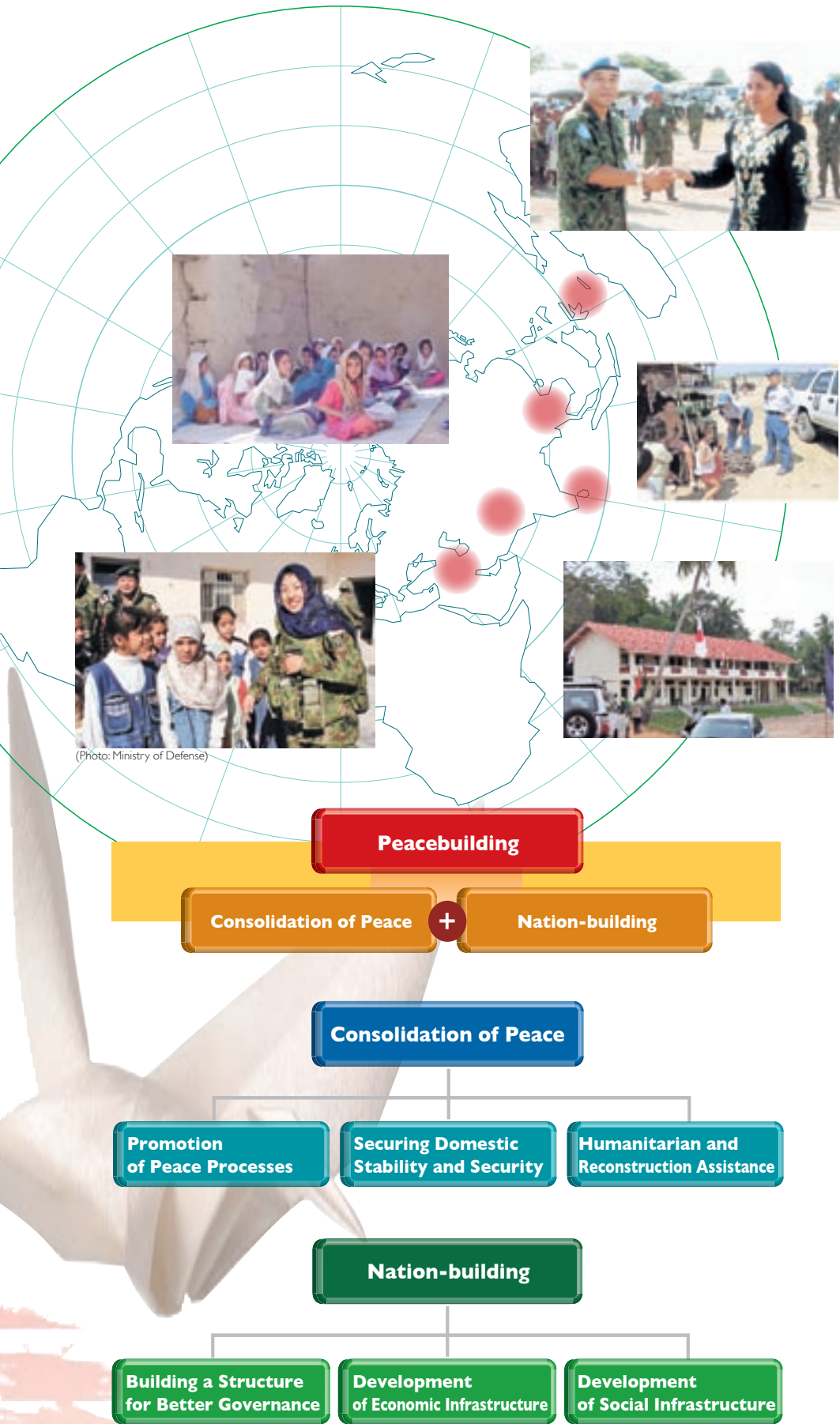
Japan's contribution to peacebuilding has been threefold: economic cooperation through its ODA program, personnel cooperation under the International Peace Cooperation Law, and intellectual contribution in the international arena. Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter revised in August 2003 stipulates "peacebuilding" as one of the main pillars in the provision of ODA, and highlights the importance of addressing the various causes of conflicts and providing swift and seamless assistance in response to changing situations.

(2) Respect for local communities and their ownership

Peacebuilding is a task that relies heavily on the commitment and efforts by local people to break away from conflict and create a state and society where peace can be sustained. It is important, therefore, that peacebuilding support to be provided with deep respect for local communities and to gain the understanding of the local people. The notable achievements of Japan's Self-Defense Forces deployed to Iraq and Timor-Leste were the result of their relentless efforts to build trust with the local population. Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter also lists "supporting the self-help efforts of developing countries" as one of its basic policies, and states that "Japan respects the ownership [of the efforts demonstrated] by developing countries, and places priority on their development strategies."

(3) Emphasis on the perspective of "human security" (see p. 12)

Japan emphasizes the perspective of "human security" in its diplomatic affairs, which is exemplified in its efforts to support peacebuilding.



I

Efforts by Region

Cambodia: Japan's First Comprehensive Peacebuilding Support Project

Kingdom of Cambodia

DATA



Area:181,000km²
Capital:Phnom Penh
Population:13.8millions*
Official Language:Cambodian
GDP per capita:US\$354*

*Source:United Nations Development Programme (2006) 'Human Development Report 2006'



Since the late 1980s, Japan has provided comprehensive peacebuilding support in Cambodia comprised of a series of programs ranging from peace process support to nation-building. It was the first full-scale peacebuilding assistance program undertaken by Japan.

(1) Diplomatic efforts toward a peace agreement

Japan has made active diplomatic efforts for a political solution of the Cambodian conflict, such as providing the venue for dialogue for the parties by hosting the Tokyo meeting on Cambodia in June 1990, which laid the groundwork for the conclusion of the Paris Peace Agreements in October 1991.

(2) Dispatch of personnel to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)

Japan contributed a total of 1,300 personnel, including Self-Defense Forces personnel, civilian police officers and election monitors to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which was established by the Paris Peace Agreements. It was the first full-scale PKO deployment for Japan under the International Peace Cooperation Law enacted in June 1992. The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) in UNTAC was Yasushi Akashi, who was also the first Japanese national to hold the post of SRSG.



Special Representative of the Secretary General to UNTAC Yasushi Akashi visiting a navy camp of the Phnom Penh administration
©UN Photo 159201 / P.Sudhakaran, Photo: UN Information Centre.

(3) Cooperation in social and economic reconstruction

The Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia, convened in June 1992 and chaired jointly by Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), led to an agreement to establish the International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC) as a mechanism for coordinating mid- and long-term reconstruction assistance. Japan remains the largest aid donor to Cambodia to date.



Demonstrating how to fill out the ballot in hope of the successful elections

(4) Election process assistance and efforts to promote the rule of law

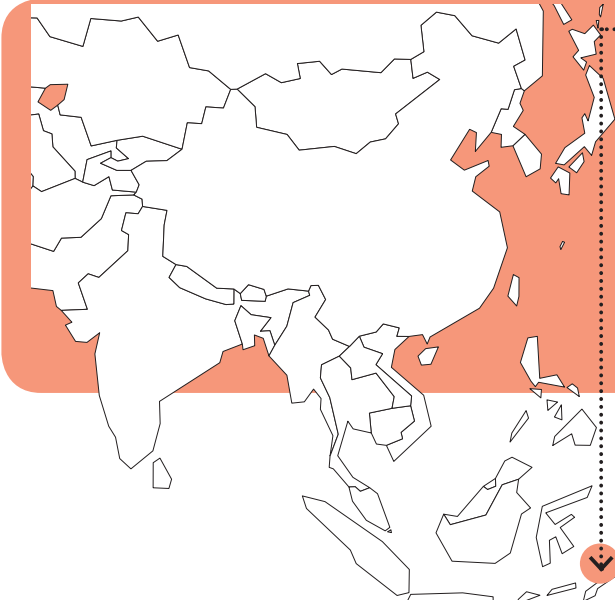
When an armed crush broke out in July 1997 prior to the 1998 general election, Japan engaged in diplomatic efforts to resolve the situation and then helped ensure that the elections would be held in a free and fair manner, by dispatching election monitors and providing financial assistance.

Strengthening the rule of law is another area in which Japan has made a significant contribution. Since 1999, Japan has been assisting in the judicial reform efforts in Cambodia including drafting of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure while supporting the establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for Khmer Rouge tribunal through diplomatic efforts and financial assistance, and dispatching Japanese prosecutor Mr. Motoo Noguchi as an international judge of the Supreme Court Chamber of the tribunal in May 2006.

SDF repairing a national highway




Timor-Leste: Continuing Efforts Toward Peacebuilding



The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

DATA



Area: 14,000km²

Capital: Dili

Population: 0.9 millions*

Official Language: Tetum, Portuguese

GDP per capita: US\$367*

*Source: United Nations Development Programme (2006) 'Human Development Report 2006'

Japan has provided various assistance to the referendum on independence in August 1999, including the deployment of civilian police officers. After the conflict in August 1999 over the result of the referendum, Japan continued supporting peace efforts in Timor-Leste by deploying its Self-Defense Forces and civilian police officers, and providing humanitarian aid and assistance for its reconstruction. Timor-Leste achieved its independence in May 2002.



Planting young mangrove trees



SDF repairing a bridge



(1) Emergency aid in the immediate aftermath of the referendum

Japan contributed about 38.6 million U.S. dollars through the United Nations immediately after the referendum, and subsequently contributed 100 million U.S. dollars to the United Nations Trust Fund for the multinational forces in Timor-Leste. The Japan Self-Defense Force conducted airlift operations, based on the International Peace Cooperation Law, to transport relief supplies for the refugees from Timor-Leste at the request of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

(2) Dispatch of personnel to the Peace Keeping Operations in Timor-Leste

The total number of Japanese personnel deployed in the series of PKO missions in Timor-Leste (UNAMET, UNTAET, UNMISSET) between August 1999 and June 2004 exceeds 1,600. They consist of mostly civilian police officers, Self-Defense Forces personnel, and election monitors dispatched under the International Peace Cooperation Law. At the conclusion of the operations by the Self-Defense Forces, the construction equipment used by its logistic support unit was donated to the Government of Timor-Leste along with training in the use of the equipment. These measures were implemented under the ODA framework, and earned the praises of the local community as it facilitated a smooth transition from PKO to ODA.

(3) Initiatives for reconstruction and development aid

Beginning with the hosting of the First International Donors Conference for East Timor in December 1999, Japan has steadily supported the reconstruction and development of Timor-Leste, through humanitarian and development aid. The assistance thus far has been focused around four key areas: infrastructure rebuilding and development; agriculture and rural development; education, human resources development and institution rebuilding; and the consolidation of peace.

(4) Civil disturbance in the spring of 2006 and Japan's support

Conditions once again deteriorated in Timor-Leste in the spring of 2006, and a new United Nations PKO mission (UNMIT) was established in August. This illustrates the difficulties inherent in peacebuilding and the need for continuous support by the international community to the efforts by the country.

Still committed to supporting the consolidation of peace and nation-building in Timor-Leste, Japan provided 5 million U.S. dollars in aid for the internally displaced persons fleeing from the civil unrest in the spring of 2006. In March 2007, Japan held a symposium in which the case of Timor-Leste was examined for the future activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. Since February 2007, Japanese civilian police officers have been deployed in Timor-Leste pursuant to the International Peace Cooperation Law.

Sri Lanka: Support for Peace Process and Economic Cooperation

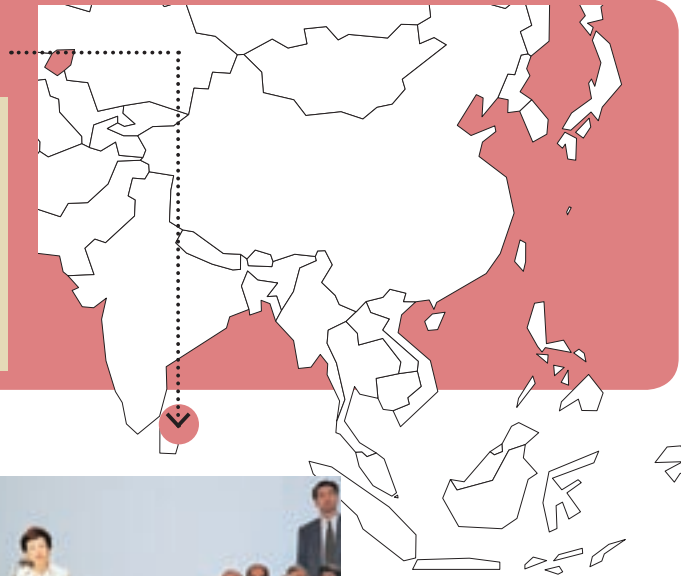
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

DATA



Area: 66,000km²
 Capital: Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte
 Population: 20.6 millions*
 Official Language: Sinhala
 GDP per capita: US\$1,033*

*Source: United Nations Development Programme (2006) 'Human Development Report 2006'



In Sri Lanka, after 20 years of the fighting between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Japan has provided assistance for peacebuilding in the country beginning with support for the peace process.

(1) Peace process assistance

Upon conclusion of the ceasefire agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE in February 2002, Japan appointed former UN Under-Secretary-General Yasushi Akashi as the Representative of the Government of Japan on Peacebuilding, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Sri Lanka. In addition, Japan has actively supported the peace process by hosting the sixth round of the peace negotiations in Hakone in March 2003, as well as the Tokyo Conference on the Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka in June of the same year.



Tokyo Conference on the Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka

(2) Economic cooperation for peacebuilding

Recognizing that the realization of the "dividends of peace" by the Sri Lankan people is crucial for the promotion of the peace process, Japan has been extending assistance to the development of the North-East Regions of Sri Lanka, which was seriously damaged by the conflict. Trincomalee District Participatory Agricultural Development Project (technical cooperation, September 2005) and Pro-Poor Eastern Infrastructure Development Project (Yen loan, March 2006) are examples of such assistances.



Renovation of a parched reservoir



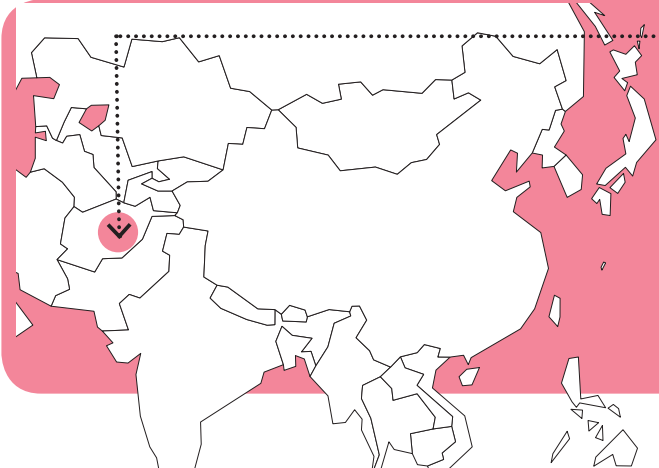
Development Expert Dispatched to International Monitoring Team: Mindanao, Philippines

Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, has for many years experienced serious poverty and security problems stemming from the conflict between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Realizing the importance of achieving peace and stability in Mindanao, Japan has dispatched a senior adviser for rehabilitation and development of Mindanao to the International Monitoring Team (IMT) to play a leading role in the "socio-economic monitoring" and in formulation of a comprehensive development plan. The expert is in turn supported by the Mindanao Task Force led by the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, which utilized "Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid" for effective peacebuilding projects.


Japanese advisor attending an IMT mobile clinic



Afghanistan: Comprehensive Support Based on the Concept of the Consolidation of Peace



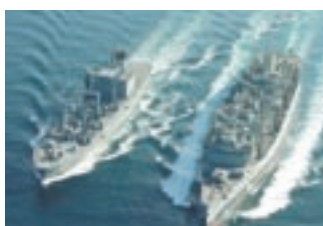
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

DATA	
	Area: 652,000km ²
	Capital: Kabul
	Population: 28.6 millions*
	Official Language: Dari, Pashtu
	GDP per capita: N/A*

*Source: United Nations Development Programme (2006) 'Human Development Report 2006'



The Second Tokyo Conference on the Consolidation of Peace in Afghanistan (July 5, 2006)



SDF vessels supporting anti-terrorist operations on the Indian Ocean (Photo: Ministry of Defense)



President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan accepting the last weapons from soldiers participated in the DDR program (Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme-<http://www.undpanbp.org>)

Since the policy speech on Afghanistan given by Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi in April 2002, Japan's support for Afghanistan has been based on the concept of consolidation of peace, which rests on the three pillars: the peace process, domestic security, and reconstruction and humanitarian assistance.

(1) The initiative in the international community

Japan hosted the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan in January 2002, which raised more than 4.5 billion U.S. dollars for assistance to Afghanistan. Japan's initiative has continued with the International Conference on Afghanistan (Berlin Conference) in April 2004, which it co-chaired with Germany, and in two Tokyo conferences on the consolidation of peace in Afghanistan (February 2003 and July 2006), also hosted by Japan.

(2) DDR (disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration)

Japan has taken the lead in the DDR process, in order to restore security in Afghanistan. Japan supported the establishment of the Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP), the institution for DDR implementation, and has assisted its operation through the United Nations Development Programme since its inauguration in October 2003. The ANBP completed the disarmament and reintegration of approximately 60,000 members of the Afghan Military Forces, and is now focusing on the Anti Personnel Mines & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction Project and the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG).

(3) Regional Comprehensive Development Assistance Programme (Ogata Initiative)

The Regional Comprehensive Development Assistance Programme ("the Ogata Initiative") for resettlement and reintegration of returning refugees and internally displaced persons, which was implemented based on a proposal by Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Japan for Afghanistan Assistance Sadako Ogata, has been highly praised as a model for regional reconstruction assistance and a seamless transition from humanitarian aid to reconstruction and development assistance.

(4) Support based on the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law

With determination to prevent Afghanistan from reverting to a breeding ground for terrorists, Japan has conducted refueling activity based on the Anti-Terrorism Special Measure Law, in which its Maritime Self-Defense Force vessels have supplied fuel to the vessels of coalition forces engaging in anti-terrorist operations. The value of the supplied fuel has amounted to over 20 billion yen.

Iraq: “Two Wheels of One Cart”

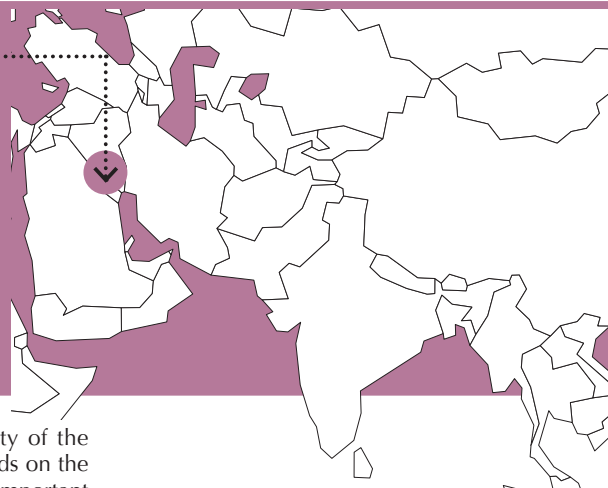
Republic of Iraq

DATA



Area: 438,000km²
 Capital: Baghdad
 Population: 28.1 millions*
 Official Language: Arabic, Kurdish
 GDP per capita: N/A*

*Source: United Nations Development Programme (2006) 'Human Development Report 2006'



The stability and reconstruction of Iraq is essential for the stability of the international community as a whole. Especially for Japan, which depends on the Middle East for nearly 90% of its crude oil supplies, it is an extremely important issue. Japan has pledged a total of 5 billion U.S. dollars in reconstruction assistance and has been steadily implementing it. Japan's Self-Defense Forces have also been operating in Iraq to deliver humanitarian and reconstruction assistance.

(1) Emergency humanitarian assistance

Immediately following the U.S. military offensive on March 19, 2002, the Japanese government authorized financial contributions to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as funding for Japanese NGOs operating in northern Iraq and the area along the border with Jordan. Japan also provided and transported tents for refugees at the request of UNHCR in Jordan under the International Peace Cooperation Law.

In 2002, Japanese NGOs belonging to Japan Platform (see p. 15) implemented emergency and reconstruction aid projects in the fields of education, medicine, and assessments.

(2) Cooperation based on the Law Concerning the Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq

Based on the Special Measures Law for Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq, as of January 2007, Japan has deployed a total of 8140 Self-Defense Forces personnel to deliver humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in the fields of medical care and water supply, as well as assistance for the restoration and reconstruction of schools and other public facilities, mainly in Samawah. The Air Self-Defense Force, meanwhile, has been providing airlift support for the United Nations humanitarian and reconstruction activities, as well as Multi-lateral National Force 2.

(3) “Two Wheels of One Cart”

The activities that the SDF has conducted so far, centering on such humanitarian and reconstruction assistance as medical care and water supplies, as well as the restoration and reconstruction of schools and other public facilities, have been coordinated with ODA administered by a total of fifty staff members of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in the MOFA Liaison Office in Samawah. These coordinated efforts implemented through the Self Defense Forces and ODA, a policy referred to as “two wheels of one cart,” have contributed to the restorations and improvement of local infrastructure while creating employment for an average 3500 persons a day, and garnered the appreciation of the local community.

(4) Capacity building

In light of the importance of capable human resources in nation-building, Japan has conducted training programs in various fields to help develop the capacities of Iraqi government officials and engineers. As many as 1,500 Iraqis underwent such training between March 2004 and December 2006.



SDF personnel interacting with local population

A Japanese aircraft with a UN logo used for airlift assistance for refugees in Iraq
 (Photo: Ministry of Defense)



Iraqi IDPs receive emergency supplies (Photo: JPF/WVJ)



Consolidation of Peace through Football: Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans

The multiethnic youth football team "KRILQ," supported by a Japanese NGO, and a Japanese youth football team playing together. (Photo: Sarajevo Football Project)



The sports create connection between people, and heal wounded hearts. As a part of its support for the consolidation of peace in the Western Balkans, Japan has launched a unique program based on the idea of "promotion of ethnic reconciliation through sports," which provides assistance to multi-ethnic youth football teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans was held in Tokyo in April 2004. At the conference, Serbia and



Former Prime Minister Koizumi signing the "peace ball" (April 2004)

Montenegro Football League President Dragan Stojkovic was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador, and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed the "peace ball," a football signed by the heads of the Western Balkan states to express their wish toward peace.

C O I U M N

Fighting between left wing's rebel groups and the government forces in Colombia has been protracting for 40 years, posing major challenges to the government, such as protection of socially vulnerable populations including internally displaced persons.

Securing access to education is the most effective way to encourage these vulnerable populations to avoid resorting to arms and develop their capacity as citizens in order to create a better society. Japan provided about 20 million U.S.

dollars of "Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid" between 2000 and 2005 for education-related projects in Colombia, such as construction of schools and libraries, and support for cultural projects. Japan will continue such assistances under the slogan, "Pencils, Not Weapons, for Children" to support the efforts of the Government of Colombia toward the consolidation of peace in the country.

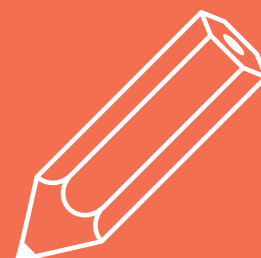
Education is the Source of Peace: Support for Peacebuilding in Colombia



Children at a school built by Japanese ODA



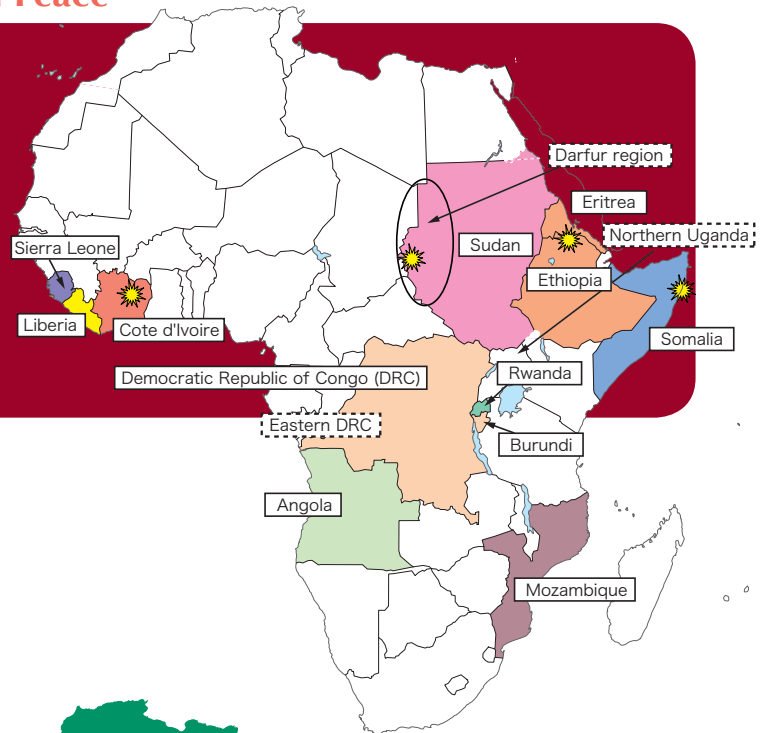
Presentation ceremony for a library built by Japanese ODA



The TICAD Process and Consolidation of Peace

TICAD Process and Assistance for Africa: Initiatives Aimed at the Consolidation of Peace

Africa has become a main area for peacebuilding as a large number of countries in the continent are in conflict or post-conflict situations. Japan has identified consolidation of peace as one of the three pillars in the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process, around which Japanese diplomatic policy in Africa is centered.



(1) TICAD Process

Jointly organized by Japan and international organizations, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) has provided a forum for all the parties involved in the development of Africa including the African countries, major donor countries, the countries of Asia, and international organizations to come together. Since 1993, conferences have been held every five years. In recent years, conferences on specific topics, such as the “consolidation of peace” and “trade and investment,” have also been organized and highly appreciated by the countries concerned.

(2) TICAD III (2003) and consolidation of peace

At TICAD III held in Tokyo in 2003, Japan announced consolidation of peace as one of the three pillars of Japan’s initiative for assistance to Africa along with “human-centered development” and “poverty reduction through economic growth.” In TICAD Conference on Consolidation of Peace held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2006, Japan announced a new initiative with a particular focus on Sudan, West Africa, and the Great Lakes Region aiming to address a wide range of fields such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants (DDR), small arms problems, governance, national reconciliation, and resettlement and repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Japan has already provided a total of 60 million U.S. dollars in assistance under this initiative. The conference participants supported Japan’s proposal to emphasize the ownership of African countries, the need for comprehensive and integrated efforts, and the importance of human security in the consolidation of peace.

The next conference, TICAD IV, is scheduled to be held in 2008.



TICAD logo.



Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III)



TICAD Conference on the Consolidation of Peace



Former Prime Minister Koizumi delivering a policy speech in Addis Ababa (May 1, 2006)



Elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Tents provided to Sudanese refugees

Support for the Consolidation of Peace in Africa

(1) Initiative supporting the consolidation of peace in Africa

At the G8 Gleneagles Summit held in July 2005, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced Japan's will to increase support for the consolidation of peace in Africa stating "[Japan will] provide assistance to the field that is most needed by African countries" so that "African countries can stand on their own feet."

Japan has undertaken a diverse array of efforts to this end, such as security improvement, support for rehabilitation and reconstruction in various countries through financial and technical cooperation, the deployment of election monitoring teams, and cooperation with United Nations Peace Keeping Operations and Peace Support Operations (PSO) by African countries. The total amount of assistance provided over the three-year period from 2003 to 2005 was more than \$350 million.

Japan is the second-largest donor of PKO funding bearing approximately twenty percent of the UNPKO cost in Africa (more than \$750 million in the UN budget from 2004 through 2006).

(2) Consolidation of peace in the Sudan

Japan announced in April 2005 that it would provide 100 million U.S.dollars for the Sudan, one of its target regions, and its aid to the region has now exceeded that amount. Japan has cooperated with the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), which was established in March 2005 after the conclusion of the comprehensive peace agreement, by dispatching a political affairs officer on secondment from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and providing African troops with supplies under the International Peace Cooperation Law. Grant aid in the amount of 7.14 million U.S. dollars as provided to the Interim Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programme for Sudan (IDDRP) in November 2005 to promote the DDR of children and female fighters.

Japan has been active with regard to the Darfur issue. Japan is supporting the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), has dispatched the Ambassador in charge of Conflict and Refugee-Related Issues in Africa to the Sudan to provide assistance in improving the situation in Darfur, and has had talk at the foreign ministerial level to encourage the government of the Sudan to accept a UN PKO mission in Darfur and to cooperate with the international community.

Police Democratization Assistance for Elections: Democratic Republic of the Congo

The role of the police is extremely important in the process of establishing a democratic government, and also for peacebuilding.

In July 2006, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) held its first democratic presidential and legislative elections since achieving its independence. Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), provided police democratization training to 89 officer-trainers in cooperation with the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the Government of South Africa. This program was implemented as a part of Japan's DRC elections support plan that was aimed to ensure the safe and democratic implementation of the elections. The officers trained in the program in turn trained 4,722 police officers. The program was evaluated highly by those involved.



(Photo: JICA)

III

Intellectual Initiatives

Human Security: Taking Initiatives in Intellectual Area

Human security is a concept that focuses on individuals. Countries, international organizations, NGOs, and civil society need to make a coordinated effort to strengthen the capacity of people and society that is required in addition to the protection provided by the state or international community, in order for the people to stand on their own feet. Since Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi first enunciated the idea of human security in 1998, Japan has been promoting diplomacy with an emphasis on this concept. Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter stipulates the "perspective of human security" as one of the basic policies of ODA, and states: "To ensure that human dignity is maintained at all stages, from the conflict stage to the reconstruction and development stage, Japan will extend assistance for the protection and empowerment of individuals."

In December 2006, the International Symposium on Human Security on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Japan's Admission to the United Nations was held in Tokyo, where participants discussed issues concerning human security approach in the peacebuilding arena. In his opening remarks, Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Aso emphasized the importance of the perspective of human security in the peacebuilding, stating, "In the immediate aftermath of a conflict, the nation is often in ruins and the 'state security services' are often unable to function properly. This is why efforts focused on 'human security' to protect and empower individuals and local communities at the grassroots level, are so critical."

(1) The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security was established in the UN Secretariat with contributions made by the Japanese government in March 1999, and has since provided funds for aid projects of UN-related agencies aimed at ensuring human security. Cumulative contribution to date amounts to approximately 33.5 billion yen. This fund has been used for projects providing seamless assistance in the transitional period from conflict to development, or to make it possible to address multiple, inter-related issues in projects which involve several international organizations and NGOs. A number of projects supported by the fund are related to peacebuilding.

(2) Commission on Human Security

The Commission on Human Security was established in response to a proposal by Japan at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The commission was co-chaired by former UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata and Master of Trinity College Cambridge Amartya Sen and aimed to develop the concept of human security as well as to generate proposals as an operational guideline for policy formulation and implementation for the international community. The Commission submitted its report to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in May 2003. This report has significant implications for the field of peacebuilding, and Japan has been striving to ensure that the proposals in the report are incorporated in relevant policies and projects.



Co-chairs Sadako Ogata and Amartya Sen presenting the report from the Commission on Human Security



"Reintegration of Ex-Combatants through capacity building and self-employment in Sierra Leone" supported by Trust Fund for Human Security



International Symposium on Human Security on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Japan's Admission to the United Nations (December 2006)

IV Efforts by Category

International Cooperation in Addressing Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Issues and Mine Action

International Cooperation in Addressing Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Issues: Exercising Leadership

Having promoted various initiatives related to small arms problems in the international community and provided concrete support in this area, Japan has come to be recognized as a leader on the issue of the SALW.

(1) Taking the initiative in the international community

Japan's initiative in this field has been demonstrated by its leadership in the establishment of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, and the submission of the Draft Resolution on Small Arms and Light Weapons to the United Nations General Assembly.

(2) Implementation of the small arms collection project

In cooperation with other organizations, Japan has implemented the small arms collection project, which combines the collection of small arms with development projects for local communities. In Cambodia, the Peace Building and Comprehensive Small Arms Management Program jointly implemented by Japan and Cambodia had collected more than 25,000 small arms as of December 2006. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, Japan pledged more than 400 million yen for arms collection projects administered by UNDP.

Collected small arms and light weapons



Light weapons being burned (Cambodia)



Disposal of unexploded ordnance

Assistance for Mine Action: Towards Zero Victims

Japan has been promoting a comprehensive approach aiming at realizing universal and effective prohibition of anti-personnel mines throughout the international community, and strengthening assistance for mine action projects.

(1) Japan's policy on mine action

At the signing ceremony of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty) in 1998, Japan advocated the Zero Victim Program and has been actively engaged in providing support for mine action, including mine clearance. At the First Ottawa Treaty Review Conference held in December 2004, Japan announced its intention to continue its support for mine action projects in accordance with three principles: (1) contribution to peace building, (2) valuing the perspective of human security, and (3) close cooperation among the government, NGOs, the private sector, and academia for research and development of advanced technologies for mine detection and clearance. The total amount of assistance Japan has provided to mine-affected countries since 1998 has been more than 23 billion yen.

(2) Assistance for capacity building in mine clearance

In February 2006, Japan decided to provide capacity-building support with emergency grant aid for Burundi staff members involved in mine clearance. This was provided as part of its support for reconstruction and development activities toward the consolidation of peace in the country.



Equipment for unification test in Afghanistan (Photo: JICS)



Mine risk education using pictures and models of landmines

V Japan's Future Efforts

Japan's Future Efforts: Human Resource Development, Intellectual Contributions, On-the-Ground Contributions

Peacebuilding has become a topic of increased discussion by the international community in recent years, as reflected in the establishment of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in December 2005. Japan will, on its part, continue to be active in the area of peacebuilding, by providing seamless and comprehensive support, strengthening its contributions of personnel, and making further intellectual contribution.

(1) Human resource development for peacebuilding

While demand for civilian staff engaged in peacebuilding has grown in recent years, the number of Japanese working in this field remains relatively small. Japan needs to employ greater initiative to make use of Asian experience and expertise in order to provide insights to peacebuilding activities, amidst the global rise in the needs for peacebuilding, particularly in Africa.

Against this background, Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Aso proposed in August 2006 that Japan would establish “terakoya” (training institutions) that develops Asian human resources through teaching knowledge and skills necessary for on-the-ground peacebuilding operations to potential peacebuilders. This initiative of human resource development in the field of peacebuilding was then formally announced in December 2006 by Prime Minister Abe as one of the Japanese initiatives for East Asia cooperation.

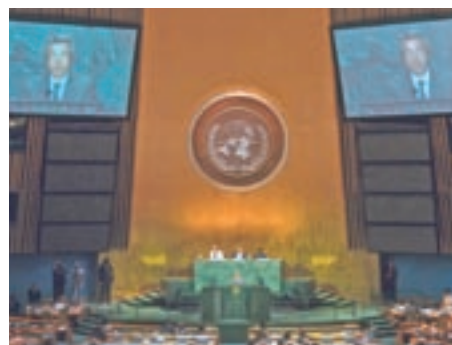
(2) Intellectual contribution to the international community

Japan has made notable contributions to the discussions on peacebuilding in the international community through promoting the principle of human security in various fora including the United Nations, and advocating the combination of consolidation of peace and nation-building as a framework for peacebuilding. Japan has also played a positive role in revitalizing the United Nations Security Council's PKO Working Group, actively involved in the management and coordination of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission as one of its original members, and made substantial contributions to the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

Japan will continue to utilize its expertise and experience and to make active intellectual contribution to peacebuilding in the key international arenas including the United Nations, the G8 Summit, and the DAC. At the same time, Japan will actively promote its peacebuilding initiatives at fora for regional cooperation such as TICAD and the East Asia Summit.



The United Nations headquarters (Photo:PANA)



The General Assembly at UN headquarters (Photo:Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Aso delivering a speech “A School to Build Peace Builders” at a seminar “People Building Peace” (August 2006)



G8 Summit in St. Petersburg (February 2006)

(3) Strengthening engagement on the ground

Each post-conflict situation has widely different sets of needs for peacebuilding. Japan has developed a variety of systems to address challenges of peacebuilding flexibly and swiftly and provide high-quality assistance in coordination with local communities and other relevant organizations.

(a) Bolstering ODA for peacebuilding

The Japan Platform(JPF) was founded in August 2000 together by the government, the business sector, and NGOs so as to enable Japanese NGOs to swiftly and effectively implement emergency humanitarian assistance activities. In 2002, Japan introduced a new scheme of Grant Aid for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, and later in 2003, Grassroots Grant Aid was renamed “Grassroots Human Security Grant Aid,” to emphasize the perspective of human security with the budget expansion from 10 billion yen to 15 billion yen. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the implementing agency of Japan’s ODA, has been undertaking reforms since 2000 placing greater emphasis on a field-based approach to projects, and has introduced systems such as the Fast Track System (2005) for rapid and flexible implementation of assistance.

(b) Promotion of international peace cooperation

“The National Defense Program Guideline for FY 2005 and After” calls for the development of necessary mechanisms for Japan to actively participate in activities that the nations of the world cooperatively undertake to enhance the international security environment. In January 2007, when Defense Agency was transitioned to Ministry of Defense, international peace cooperation activities were designated as part of the primary mission of the Self-Defense Forces. Prime Minister Abe announced his resolve to make contributions in terms of personnel, stating, “While adhering to the principles of the Constitution, Japanese will no longer shy away from carrying out overseas activities involving the SDF, if it is for the sake of international peace and stability.”

Japan will continue to exert its efforts to expand and improve the quality of its personnel, and take on development of systems for providing flexible and efficient aid, further reinforcing its engagement in peacebuilding activities on the ground.



SDF personnel being welcomed by children on site at the health clinic they are helping to renovate in Samawah, Iraq (Photo: Ministry of Defense)

Japan’s Future Efforts for Peacebuilding

Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding

Increasing the number of Japanese capable of contributing to peacebuilding

Making use of Asian experiences and expertise for peacebuilding around the world

Strengthening Intellectual Contribution

Contributing to the development of the discussion in the international community

Launching intellectual initiative in the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission and other international fora

Strengthening engagement on the ground

Bolstering ODA for peacebuilding

Promoting peacebuilding as one of the main pillars of Japan’s Official Development Assistance Charter

Improving the systems and schemes for provision of assistance

Flexible and effective implementation

Promoting international peace cooperation

Enhancing cooperation with the international community

Development of a legal framework for international peace cooperation

Raising the number and quality of personnel for peacebuilding

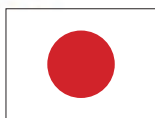
For further information :

Governmental Organizations and Agencies

- Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet
<http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html>
- Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, Cabinet Office
http://www.pko.go.jp/PKO_E/pko_main_e.html
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/>
- Ministry of Defense of Japan
<http://www.mod.go.jp/e/>
- National Police Agency of Japan
<http://www.npa.go.jp/english/>
- Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA)
<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/>
- Japan Bank for International Cooperation(JBIC)
<http://www.jbic.go.jp/english/>

Documents

- Diplomatic Blue Book
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/>
- Japan' s ODA White Paper
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/white/>
- Defense of Japan Whitepaper
<http://www.mod.go.jp/e/publications/index.htm>
- Japan' s Official Development Assistance Charter
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/reform/charter.html>
- National Defense Program Guideline for FY 2005 and After
http://www.mod.go.jp/e/defense_policy/japans_defense_policy/4/ndpgf2005/1.pdf
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