

## **Japan's Support to the SAARC (Priority Areas and Policies)**

April 3, 2007

The Government of Japan attaches great importance to the role of the SAARC in South Asia and will implement the following policies, particularly in the fields of democratization, peace-building, promoting cooperation in the region, and people-to-people exchanges:

### **1. Support for Democratization and Peace Building**

#### **(1) Nepal: Support for Peace Process including the Constitution Assembly Elections**

- Personnel contributions including dispatching the Self Defense Forces members to the UN Political Mission in Nepal
- Contribution totaling 29.8 million dollars for election support, re-integration of children associated with armed forces, and food aid

#### **(2) Bhutan: Support for Transition towards Representative Parliamentary Democracy**

- Inviting Chief Justice and Chief Election Commissioner (or other members of the Election Commission) to Japan
- Support to the state-run broadcast service
- Provision of the first yen loan of approximately 30 million dollars for the Bhutan Rural Electrification Project, to contribute to the establishment of a stable democratic society

#### **(3) Pakistan: Support for Consolidation of Democracy including the General Elections**

- Dispatching election monitoring group
- Possible contribution to the UNDP election support program is under consideration

#### **(4) Afghanistan: Continue Support for Peace Building**

- Provision of approximately 1.2 billion dollars of ODA in total
- Maritime Self-Defense Force in operations in the Indian Ocean
- Plans for provision of 250 million dollars in regional comprehensive development, DIAG (Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups), infrastructure, and human resource development

#### **(5) Sri Lanka: Support for the Peace Process**

- Dispatching Mr. Akashi, Representative of the Government of Japan, to Sri Lanka
- Assistance to the North and East of Sri Lanka as a Peace Building Measure
- Support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

### **2. Support for Promoting Cooperation in the Region**

#### **(1) Support for Improving Connectivity**

- Cooperating with development partners, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to consider cooperation to realize priority projects in such fields as regional transport infrastructure

#### **(2) Support for Enhancement of Regional Disaster Reduction System**

- Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) in Kobe to implement Disaster Reduction Program, utilizing the SAARC-Japan Special Fund, to reinforce disaster management system for the entire SAARC region
- Contribution of 4.8 million dollars to "Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for South Asian Region" (collaboration with UNDP)

### **3. Promotion of People-to-People Exchanges**

Contribution of approximately 7 million dollars for the SAARC-Japan Special Fund, promoting various exchange programmes, including internship and promotion of cooperation between youth entrepreneurs (Also resume general contribution to the Special Fund)

(Support for Democratization and Peace Building)

**Support for Nepal's Peace Process including the Constitution Assembly Elections**

Japan strongly supports the establishment of a democratic government and the progress of peace process in Nepal, and continues to assist in the Nepalese Government's efforts towards that end.

**1. Personnel Contributions**

(1) Dispatch of the Self Defense Forces (SDF) to UN Political Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)

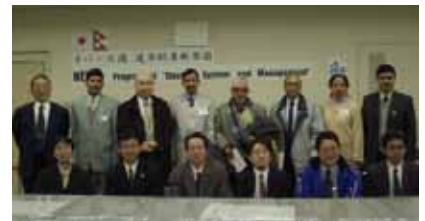
On March 27, dispatch of six unarmed SDF members to UNMIN as military observers was approved in a Cabinet meeting. SDF members left Japan on March 30.

(2) Dispatching Election Expert

An Election Expert has been dispatched from January 2007.

(3) Election Commission Training in Japan

In February 2007, six Nepalese Election Commission members were invited to receive training on electoral system in Japan.



Nepalese Election Commission members in Japan

(4) Dispatching of Election Monitoring Group

Dispatching an Election Monitoring Group for the Constitution Assembly Elections is under consideration.

**2. Financial Contributions (Total of 29.8 million dollars)**

Since April 2006, Japan has been extending support totaling approximately 25 million dollars for Nepal's democratization and peace building. In March 2007, Japan decided to contribute another 4.8 million dollars in response to the UN common appeal.

(1) Providing election-related equipment

- Approximately 9.2 million dollars Non-Project-Grant-Aid, including provision of all necessary ballot boxes (60,000 boxes).
- Providing computers and projectors and improving IT network for the Election Commission.

(2) Grant Aid for Radio Broadcasting Station Improvement (Approximately 7.8 million dollars, decided on September 2006)

(3) Contribution to the UN Common Appeal (March, 2007)

(a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): approximately 4.4 million dollars

- Re-integration of children associated with Armed Forces (approximately 2.98 million dollars)
- Emergent health services for emergency-affected children and women (approximately 1.47 million dollars)

(b) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): approximately 0.4 million dollars

- Emergent reproductive health care services through mobile health camps (0.4 million dollars)

(4) Food Aid and Grant Assistance for Under-privileged Farmers. Food Aid: 2.25 million dollars (decided on May 2006), 2.5 million dollars (decided on March 2007), Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers: 2.5 million dollars (decided on March 2007)

(Support for Democratization and Peace Building)

**Support for Transition towards Representative Parliamentary Democracy in Bhutan**

Japan encourages Bhutan's efforts for transition towards representative democracy and provides support in the fields of election, administration capacity, and media. In addition, Japan provides the first yen loan to Bhutan to help improve economic and social infrastructure that is essential to the democratization process.

**1. Inviting Members of the Election Commission, etc.**

- (a) Utilizing opportunities of elections in Japan, the Chief Election Commissioner (or other members of the Election Commission) will be invited to Japan, to acquire know-how of Japan's democratic government management.
- (b) Based upon specific request, consider dispatching of Election Monitoring Group to Bhutan.

**2. Human Resource Development in the Legal Bar**

Invited Chief Justice, to Japan, in March 2007.

**3. Support for Media**

- (a) Technical cooperation project is being undertaken for the Bhutan Broadcast Service (BBS) to support production of programmes.
- (b) Consider the possibility of support for provision of necessary broadcast equipment.

**4. The First Yen Loan (Bhutan Local Electrification Project: 30 million dollars)**

- (a) This year, Japan will provide yen loan for the first time to Bhutan to support economic and social development that is essential for establishing a stable democratic society.
- (b) "Bhutan Local Electrification Project", totaling approximately 30 million dollars, will contribute to improvement of living conditions and rejuvenation of economic and social activity, through construction of the electricity grid in the local rural areas.

(Support for Democratization and Peace Building)

**Support for Consolidation of Democracy including General Elections in Pakistan**

Japan will support the General Elections in Pakistan scheduled from November 2007 to January 2008, to be conducted with freedom, justice and transparency, aimed at further strengthening democracy in Pakistan.

Also, we will promote “enlightened moderation” by increasing education and employment opportunities. Japan has previously provided support related to education and employment, and will continue our effort in such fields.

**1. Dispatching Election Monitoring Group**

Concrete aspect of dispatching will be considered hereafter.

**2. Financial Contribution for UNDP General Election Support Program**

- (1) Possible contribution to UNDP election support program is under consideration.
- (2) Improvement of election administration and capacity, as well as dissemination of election system and voting system to the people, will be achieved through this program.

**3. Education Support**

(1) Construction of 65 Primary and Secondary Schools in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) (2.5 million dollars)

Provide opportunities for modern education to children.

(2) Project for Enhancement of Educational Facilities at Allama Iqbal Open University (FY2004: 6.6 million dollars)

Enhance distance learning and provide higher education opportunities in remote places and to the middle class, in order to widely foster leaders for democracy.

(3) Punjab Literacy Promotion Project (FY2004-2007)

Enable to acquire correct information from media through increase in literacy rate, aiming for empowerment of the people to participate in socio-economic activities.

**4. Support for Technical Education and Vocational Training**

(1) Project for the Enhancement of Training Capabilities of Construction Machinery Training Institute (FY 2005-2007: 7.6 million dollars)

(2) Project on Balancing and Modernization of Workshop Facilities at PITAC (FY2002-2006)

By fostering construction machine engineers and enhancing plastic mold technology, increase employment opportunities and prevent drain of labor force to foreign countries, and develop the middle class.

(Support for Democratization and Peace Building)

**Support for Peace Building in Afghanistan**

Japan has provided approximately 1.2 billion dollars in total, as well as the Maritime Self-Defense Force to support maritime intercept operations in the Indian Ocean. We will continue supporting the peace building process in Afghanistan.

**1. Prior support achievements**

(1) Political process and governance (Approximately 165 million dollars)

Assistance on administrative costs to the Afghan Interim Administration, media assistance, and assistance on elector registration and implementation of elections.

(2) Security improvement (Approximately 209 million dollars)

DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of the former armed forces) and DIAG (Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups), mine counter-measures, counter-narcotics, support for police, etc.

(3) Reconstruction assistance (Approximately 690 million dollars)

Trunk and secondary road rehabilitation, public health and medical assistance (polio vaccination), support for education (school construction and improvement), assistance for Afghan refugees and IDP (temporary housing, water supply), infrastructure improvement, agriculture and rural development (agricultural infrastructure improvement, irrigation system restoration), technical cooperation (Bamiyan statue conservation), etc.

(4) Humanitarian assistance (Approximately 161 million dollars)

Support for refugees and IDP, food aid, etc.



Heavy armaments collected in DDR



Primary road from Kabul to Kandahar

**2. Future Major Assistance Areas**

Assistance of approximately 250 million dollars in the field of regional comprehensive development, Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG), infrastructure development including road construction, and human resource development.

**3. New Projects (Examples)**

(1) Construction of the terminal of the Kabul International Airport

Construct a new international terminal on the west side of the war-ravaged Kabul International Airport, strengthen transportation capacity and improve passenger services. (Commencement ceremony was held on November 20, 2006.)

(2) Kandahar-Herat trunk road (43.3 million dollars)

Reconstruct trunk road from Kandahar to Herat. Kandahar-Herat road and Kabul-Kandahar road compose an important part of the “Ring Road” that links the main cities of Afghanistan. Japan is in charge of constructing the 114 km. stretch from Kandahar to Gelishik, and the United States (326 km.) and Saudi Arabia (115 km.) are in charge of the rest of it. Japan aims to complete the construction of our part (total length: 114 km.) by 2008.

(Support for Democratization and Peace Building)

**Support for Peace Building in Sri Lanka**

Japan has consistently supported the peace process in Sri Lanka and will continue its utmost efforts.

**1. Support for the Peace Process**

(1) Appointment of Mr. Yasushi Akashi as Representative of the Government of Japan

After the cease-fire agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) in February 2002, former UN Under Secretary General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, was appointed as “Representative of the Government of Japan on peace building and rehabilitation and reconstruction” in the autumn of the same year. Mr. Akashi has provided indirect support for promoting the peace process by exchanging opinions extensively with officials of the Sri Lankan Government, representatives of ethnic minorities, and intellectuals.

(2) Holding of the Conference in Japan for Parties Concerned

Under the initiative of Representative of the Government, Mr. Akashi, the sixth Round of Peace Talks was held in Japan in March 2003, and in June of the same year, the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka was held with the participation of 51 countries and 22 international organizations.

**2. Reconstruction Assistance to North and East Region to Provide the “Dividend of Peace”**

By enabling people of northern and eastern region with “dividend of peace”, we have actively provided assistance to reinforce people’s support to the peace process.

(Examples of projects)

(1) Urgent Rehabilitation Programme for the North and East ( Kilinochchi Hospital Rehabilitation Project)

(2) Vavuniya-Kilinochchi Transmission Line Project (yen loan: FY2004, 10.7 million dollars)

Rehabilitation for electricity related facilities (transmission lines, electric booster stations) in north Sri Lanka.

(3) Sri Lanka Tsunami Affected Area Recovery and Takeoff (yen loan: FY2005-2009, 83.4 million dollars)

Supporting rehabilitation and reconstruction for small scale infrastructure including roads, water supply, and electricity. Financing private sectors such as fisheries and tourism business.

(4) Support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) through UNHCR

In response to the appeal from UNHCR, Japan provided 10,000 portions of assistance (10,000 sleeping mats, 10,000 water containers and 4,000 plastic sheets) for a large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), caused by the intensified violence after July 2006.

(5) Project for Construction of the New Mannar Bridge and Improvement of Causeway (grant aid: FY2006, 15 million dollars)

Construction of a new bridge connecting the mainland and Mannar Island in Mannar Province. Improving a causeway (approximately 3.5km).

(6) Agriculture and Rural Development for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction through Community Approach Project in Trincomalee District (FY2005-2009)

(Support for Promoting Cooperation in the Region)

### **Support for Improving Connectivity**

Japan will support improvement of connectivity, one of the most important fields for the SAARC. Japan has supported infrastructure development of each SAARC country for improving connectivity within the framework of bilateral cooperation. Japan's economic assistance for South Asia in FY2006 accounted for about 2.6 billion dollars, including many socio-economic infrastructure projects.

Japan, in cooperation with development partners including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), will consider cooperation to realize priority projects in such fields as regional transport infrastructure.

### **1. Examples of Japan's Support for Infrastructure Improvement of the SAARC Member Countries**

**Roads**  
Pakistan: Indus Highway

**Bridges**  
Bangladesh: Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge

**Power**  
India: Simhadri Thermal Power Station

**Sea Walls**  
Maldives: Male Sea Wall

**Ports**  
Sri Lanka: Colombo Port

### **2. Expansion of Support for Regional Infrastructure Development**

- (a) To improve connectivity among the SAARC member countries, and to achieve development of the entire region, it is important to implement cross-border projects from a regional perspective.
- (b) In addition to bilateral cooperation, Japan, in cooperation with development partners including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), will consider possibilities of cooperation to realize SAARC priority projects. Japan will continue to discuss closely with the SAARC Secretariat and each member country, based on the SAARC study in such fields as regional transport infrastructure.

(Support for Promoting Cooperation in the Region)

**Support for Enhancement of Regional Disaster Reduction System**

Utilizing her knowledge and experience, Japan will support disaster reduction, a common issue for South Asian countries. Japan will contribute to build a disaster-resilient community and to strengthen cooperation among the entire South Asian region, in this field.

**1. Promotion of Regional Cooperation for Disaster Reduction Programme by the ADRC**

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) based in Kobe in Japan, in cooperation with the SAARC Disaster Management Center, will promote reinforcement of the disaster management system for the entire SAARC region, utilizing the SAARC-Japan Special Fund (SJSF).

(scale of operation: 0.2 million dollars annually).

(1) Basic Research of Disaster Risk Management System and the Past Disasters of the SAARC Member Countries

Compiling a database by gathering information on disaster risk management system and the past disasters of each country.

(2) SAARC Annual Meeting on Promotion of Disaster Reduction

Providing opportunities for the concerned parties (governments, NGOs, experts, SAARC regional center representatives) to discuss regional coordination in the disaster reduction field.

(3) Improvement of Information Sharing on Disasters and Disaster Risk Management

Supporting system improvement to share disaster related information in the South Asian region, including setting up of the SAARC disaster management center website.

(4) Implementing Pilot Projects to Improve Community Disaster Risk Management

Giving financial support for projects to improve disaster risk management capacity, sharing experiences to ensure similar operation in different parts of the region.

(5) Studies on Application of Disaster Reduction through Satellite Technology

Supporting studies of vulnerability assessment methodologies, utilizing satellite images.

**2. Support for UNDP Earthquake Risk Reduction Programme (4.8 million dollars)**

- (1) In March 2007, contribution of approximately 4.8 million dollars for “Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for South Asian Region” (in cooperation with UNDP) was decided.
- (2) Will implement programmes to build an earthquake resilient community through risk mapping, earthquake preparedness and strengthening/introducing appropriate earthquake-safe construction practices in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan, which are prone to earthquake hazard.
- (3) During implementation of the program, it is expected that the Asian Disaster Reduction Center will provide technical support in cooperation with the International Recovery Platform (IRP), utilizing expertise and experiences of seismic hazard in Japan and other Asian countries.



(Promotion of People-to-People Exchanges)

**Promotion of youth exchange by utilizing the SAARC-Japan Special Fund**

1. Japan contributed approximately 7 million dollars to the SAARC-Japan Special Fund for youth exchange programmes, in view of its significance in the promotion of people-to-people exchanges between Japan and South Asian countries.
2. Utilizing the fund, it is planned to invite hundreds of youth annually to Japan from the SAARC region over the next five years. As for their schedule during their stay in Japan, internship in companies and research activities for university students, promotion of private-sector cooperation between youth entrepreneurs of South Asia under the initiatives of the Junior Chamber International Japan (JCI Japan) are under consideration.
3. Japan wishes to undertake fruitful exchange programmes through consultation and cooperation with the SAARC member countries.
4. General contribution to the SAARC-Japan Special Fund, except for youth exchange, will also resume from this fiscal year. We will continue to provide active support to the SAARC utilizing this Fund.

*Recommendations for future Japan-SAARC Cooperation  
adopted at the International Conference on  
“Japan-SAARC Cooperation” (July 31, 2006, Dhaka)*

1. *To engage/provide/facilitate in mitigating disasters both in terms of disaster preparedness and disaster management and environmental protection in SAARC region through technical assistance, capacity building programs and projects-development where Japanese have expertise and can contribute in substantial way for human security.*
2. *To increase greater ‘connectivity’ in the region through expansion of infrastructure facilities for goods and services and fostering communications across border among business, academics, civil society groups, and media.*
3. *To strengthen capacity building in the institutions of SAARC countries for offering courses, training facilities, organization of workshops, conferences and building networks of support in media, academics and civil society for advocacy and awareness of Japan-SAARC Cooperation.*
4. *To establish a Forum, comprising experts of SAARC states and Japan as a flexible organization that will meet at least once a year to reflect and deliberate on issues in different SAARC capitals, and to transmit their inputs in critical areas of cooperation.*

(Attachment)

## ODA Projects for the SAARC Member Countries in FY2006

(Total\* and Examples)

\*Sum of the Yen Loan and Grant Aid

### 1. Afghanistan (Total: 106.3 million dollars)

- The Program for Support for Integral Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups Initiative (Grant Aid: 27.1 million dollars) ... 1
- Improvement of Trunk Road from Kandahar toward Herat (phase 2) (Grant Aid: 20 million dollars) ... 2
- Counter Narcotics Trust Fund (Grant Aid: 4.6 million dollars) ... 3

### 2. Bangladesh (Total: 226.9 million dollars)

- Karnaphuli Water Supply Project (Yen Loan: 101.9 million dollars) ... 4
- Grid Substations and Associated Transmission Lines Development Project (Yen Loan: 38.7 million dollars) ... 5
- Telecommunication Network Development Project (Yen Loan: 67.0 million dollars) ... 6

### 3. Bhutan (Total: 8.2 million dollars)

- Project for Reconstruction of Bridges (Phase 2) (Grant Aid: 6.2 million dollars) ... 7
- Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmer (Grant Aid: 2.0 million dollars) ... 8

### 4. India (Total: 1,545.7 million dollars)

- Kerala Water Supply Project (II) (Yen Loan: 273.1 million dollars) ... 9
- Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 2) (II) (Yen Loan: 113.2 million dollars) ... 10
- Gujarat Forestry Development Project (Phase 2) (Yen Loan: 146.0 million dollars) ... 11
- Transmission System Modernization and Strengthening Project in Hyderabad Metropolitan Area (Yen Loan: 197.5 million dollars) ... 12

### 5. Maldives (Total: 23.9 million dollars)

- Maldives Tsunami Reconstruction Project (Yen Loan: 22.8 million dollars) ... 13
- Food Aid (Grant Aid: 1.2 million dollars) ... 14

### 6. Nepal (Total: 40.0 million dollars)

- The Project for the Improvement of Short Wave and Medium Wave Radio Broadcasting Stations (Grant Aid: 8.1 million dollars) ... 15
- The Project for Construction of Sindhuli Road (Section II) (Grant Aid: 9.6 million dollars) ... 16

### 7. Pakistan (Total: 236.3 million dollars)

- Indus Highway Construction Project (III) (Yen Loan: 162.1 million dollars) ... 17
- Dadu-Khuzdar Transmission System Project (Yen Loan: 30.9 million dollars) ... 18
- The Project for the Improvement of Kararo-Wadah Section of National Highway N-25 (Grant Aid: 33.8 million dollars) ... 19

### 8. Sri Lanka (Total: 348.1 million dollars)

- Greater Colombo Urban Transport Development Project (Yen Loan: 182.6 million dollars) ... 20
- Water Sector Development Project (Yen Loan: 110.3 million dollars) ... 21
- The Project for Construction of New Mannar Bridge and Improvement or Causeway (Grant Aid: 0.3 million dollars) ... 22



### ODA in Stamps and Currency



Bangladesh



Bangladesh



Bhutan



Pakistan