

JAPAN'S SUPPORT TO SAARC (PRIORITY AREAS AND POLICIES)

August 2, 2008

The Government of Japan attaches great importance to the role of the SAARC in stability and development of South Asia and actively supports its efforts. The Government of Japan implements the following policies, particularly in the efforts toward democracy, peace-building, promotion of regional connectivity and people-to-people exchanges.

1. SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE-BUILDING

(1) Afghanistan: Continuing Support for Peace-building

- Support for Afghanistan's Reconstruction
- G8 Afghanistan-Pakistan Initiative
- Refueling Operations in the Indian Ocean

(2) Bangladesh: Support for Consolidation of Democracy

- Dispatch of the election monitoring group for the general elections, and purchasing useful materials for the election and others, upon request
- Support for economic and social development for poverty reduction and economic growth

(3) Bhutan: Support for Transition towards Parliamentary Democracy

- Dispatch of the election monitoring team, support for the general elections through UNDP
- Invitation to the chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan to Japan

(4) Maldives: Support for Consolidation of Democracy

- Support for the presidential election (around October 2008)

(5) Nepal: Support for Peace and Democratic Process

- Dispatch of the election observation mission (April, 2008) and the Self-Defense Forces personnel to United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)
- Food Aid for Poverty Reduction

(6) Pakistan: Consolidation of Democracy, Support for Stabilization in the Border Region with Afghanistan

- Support for the general elections through UNDP, dispatch of the election monitoring group
- Support for social infrastructure, centering on education and health care in the border region with Afghanistan, including Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

(7) Sri Lanka: Support for Peace Process

- Active support for the efforts by the Government of Sri Lanka for peace
- Support for internally displaced persons and food aid through international organizations

2. SUPPORT FOR PROMOTING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

(1) Support for Enhancing Connectivity

- Support in the field of infrastructure, promotion of interregional trade and investment, and support in the field of environment and energy

(2) Support for Regional Disaster Prevention and Enhancement of Countermeasure System

- Assistance through SAARC-Japan Special Fund, assistance for disaster prevention in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, support through UNDP to improve disaster prevention system in South Asia

3. PROMOTION OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

Promotion of Youth Exchange funded by SAARC-Japan Special Fund

- Japan invited for approximately 100 high school students and youths in FY 2007 from SAARC member countries through four programs. In FY 2008, the scheme of the programs is expanded under which approximately 200 youths will be invited, the internship programs will be fully implemented, and a new program inviting science and technology students will also be implemented.

1. (1) (Support for the efforts for democracy and Peace-building)

AFGHANISTAN: CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR PEACE-BUILDING

With the determination not to make Afghanistan a hotbed of terrorism and drugs, Japan has provided approximately \$1.45 billion in total for reconstruction in Afghanistan and announced a new assistance of \$ 550 million in June (so far, \$ 2 billion are pledged). In addition, Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force is implementing replenishment support activities in the Indian Ocean. Japan continues to support for Peace-building in Afghanistan.

1. Support for Reconstruction in Afghanistan

Japan implemented assistance of \$1.45 billion in the following fields from September 2001 to July 2008. Japan continues to steadily support Afghanistan in the fields of security sector reform including DIAG (Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups), rural comprehensive development mainly in the areas of agriculture and rural development, infrastructure improvement such as roads, and BHN(basic human needs)including education, health and medicine.

(1) Political Process and Governance (approximately \$ 197 million)

Assistance for administrative costs of the Afghan Interim Administration, media assistance, assistance for voter registration and implementation of elections, national census

(2) Security Improvement (approximately \$221 million)

DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of the former armed forces), DIAG, de-mining, counter-narcotics, police reconstruction, border controls, controls of weapon and ammunition.

(3) Reconstruction Assistance (approximately \$842 million)

Primary and other road construction, public health and medical assistance (polio vaccination), support for education (school construction and improvement), resettlement of Afghan refugees and IDPs (provision of temporary housing, water supply and others), infrastructure improvement, agriculture and rural development (agricultural infrastructure improvement, irrigation system restoration),technical assistance (Bamiyan statue conservation), etc.

(4) Humanitarian Assistance (approximately \$192 million)

Support for refugees and IDPs, food aid, etc.

2. Initiative at G8

The G8 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Afghanistan was released at G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Kyoto, 2008. The Statement includes that the G8 strengthen supports to the border region including FATA as well as ask Afghan neighbors to play a constructive role for the stability in Afghanistan. G8 members currently plan or implement more than 150 projects and have agreed to establish a G8 coordination arrangement in Kabul and Islamabad.

3. Refueling Operations in the Indian Ocean

To fulfill responsibility in international solidarity to eradicate terrorism, Japan has implemented oilers to vessels refueling activities by Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) to other countries engaged in maritime interdiction activities in the Indian Ocean since December 2001 (so far, refueled to vessels of 11 countries' including Pakistan).



The former solders registering the DDR list



G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Kyoto, 2008



Maritime Self-Defense Force in operations in the Indian Ocean

1. (2) (Support for the Efforts for Democracy and Peace-building)

BANGLADESH : SUPPORT FOR CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY INCLUDING THE GENERAL ELECTIONS

Japan supports the establishment of a democratic political process in Bangladesh and supports Bangladesh caretaker government's efforts to prepare for a free, fair and credible general elections scheduled in December 2008.

1. Support for Bangladesh's Efforts for Democratic General Election

Bangladesh's caretaker government steadily prepares for the general election, while maintaining popular supports and consolidating democracy. Japan provides support for the caretaker government for establishing stable democracy. In addition, at the bilateral foreign ministers' meeting in February 2008, Japanese Foreign Minister expressed that it will explore the possibility of providing supports for Bangladesh's request, including dispatch of election monitoring groups and purchasing materials for the elections.

▫ The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (Grant Aid : \$2.6 million)

Japan provided support for 20 Bangladeshi young administrative officers studying abroad to earn master's degree, who will play central roll in promoting democracy, economic liberalization and promoting foreign investment.

2. Support for Social/Economic Development for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth

▫ New Haripur Power Plant Development Project (ODA Loan : \$153.2 million)

▫ Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project (ODA Loan : \$11.3 million)

▫ Small Scale Water Resources Development Project (ODA Loan : \$45.8 million)

▫ The Project for the Improvement of the Storm Water Drainage System in Dhaka City (Phase II) (Grant Aid : \$7.9 million)

▫ The Project for the Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila and Union Roads(Phase 3) (Grant Aid : \$5.3 million)

3. Support for Overcoming a Economic Slowdown by Natural Disaster

▫ Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation Project (ODA Loan : \$60.0 million)

Provide funds to import necessary materials as well as to reconstruct roads and banks to deal with damages caused by the floods and cyclones in 2007.

▫ Emergency Grant Aid (Disaster Emergency Aid) (Grant Aid: approximately \$3.70 million)

Provide financial aid for purchasing highly nutritious biscuits, portable toilets, blankets, medicines etc., and for costs for doctors' activities through WFP, UNICEF and WHO to help the victims of the cyclones in 2007

▫ The Project for the Establishment of the Meteorological Radar System at Moulvibazar (Grant Aid : \$8.6 million)

Conduct improvement of existing meteorological radar system as well as installation of meteorological radar in order to issue a pre-cautious warning of floods and rainstorms

▫ The Program for Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Area Affected by the Cyclone Sidr (Grant Aid : \$8.5 million)

Construct multipurpose cyclone shelters (38 sites) to reduce residents' risks of cyclones. The shelters are normally used as elementary schools.



Image of Meteorological Radar System at Moulvibazar

1. (3) (Support for the Efforts for Democracy and Peace-building)

BHUTAN: SUPPORT FOR TRANSITION TOWARDS A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

In support of Bhutan's transition towards a parliamentary democracy, Japan has provided assistance in conducting elections, administrative capacity-building and mass-media. In addition, Japan contributes to improving Bhutan's economic and social infrastructure vital for the efforts towards democracy with Japan's first ODA loan to Bhutan.

1. Support for Election, Dispatch of Election Observation Mission

(1) Support for General Elections through UNDP (November 2007) approximately \$1.07 million

Japan provided emergency grant aid of approximately \$1.07 million through UNDP for the implementation of fair and peaceful general election in Bhutan.

Details of the assistance are as follows.

- Installation of equipments, such as TV sets for voters in remote areas to receive election-related information
- Training of election commission officers
- Installation of temporary polling stations and office equipments
- Producing and broadcasting TV programs on elections and democracy

(2) Dispatch of Election Observation Mission to Bhutan (March 2008)

Japan dispatched 3 election observers headed by Minister of the Embassy of Japan in India, to the election of National Assembly in March 2008.

2. Development of Human Resources in Legal Profession

Inviting Election Commissioner

Japan plans to invite the chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan to Japan in FY 2008 to exchange opinions with Japanese election experts and local government officials.

3. Support for Educational Facilities and Media

(1) Project for improvement of Equipment of Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation (Grant Aid : \$5.3 million)

Support for the installation of broadcasting vans with satellite transmission and transmittal equipments with terrestrial channels, to support the Bhutan's Broadcasting Station (BBS), established in 1999, to improvement its capacity to disseminate information from rural areas,.

(2) Project for construction of Educational Facilities (Grant Aid : \$9.4 million)

Support to construct and install education facilities (72 class rooms and 3 libraries etc.) and furniture.

4. First Japanese ODA Loan to Bhutan : Rural Electrification Project

Rural Electrification Project (ODA Loan : \$30.8 million)

At the SAARC Summit 2007, the then Foreign Minister Aso expressed that Japan would support Rural Electrification Project to the then Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Khandu Wangchuk, as Japan believes that economic and social development are vital to the establishment of a stable democratic government. This project will contribute to vitalizing economic and social activities as well as to improving the living condition in the rural areas through the construction of electricity grids.

1. (4) (Support for the Efforts for Democracy and Peace-building)

MALDIVES: SUPPORT FOR CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY

Japan supports the presidential election in 2008 to support for consolidation of democracy.

1. Support for Election

Japan supports for the presidential election scheduled in October to support for consolidation of democracy.

2. Support of Socio-economic Development

(1) Food Aid (Grant Aid : \$2.0 million)

Humanitarian assistance taking into consideration of geographical distinctiveness

(2) The Project for Construction of the Second Girls Secondary School in Male' (Grant Aid : \$5.8 million)

Provision of funds to construct the Girls Secondary School in the capital city of Male

(3) Receiving trainees, dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers(JOVC)

Assistance in basic social areas of education, city planning, civil engineering, construction and others



Image of the Second Girls Secondary School in Male

1. (5) (Support for the Efforts for Democracy and Peace-building)

NEPAL : SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Japan strongly supports the consolidation of democracy and progress in peace process in Nepal and assists Nepalese government's efforts to that end.

1. Personnel Contributions

(1) Dispatch of Election Observation Mission

Japan dispatched 24 members of the election observation mission to Nepal's Constituent Assembly elections and 2 members of Japanese Diet in April 2008.

(2) Dispatch of Japanese Self-Defense Forces personnel to United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)

Japan has dispatched 6 officers of Self-Defense Forces as unarmed arms monitors of UNMIN since March 2007.

(3) Dispatch of Election Experts

Japan dispatched election experts in the election assistance on January 2007.



People waiting for voting on the polling day and Election Monitoring Group

2. Financial Contributions

Since April 2006, Japan has conducted projects to support Nepal's democratic process and peace-building.

(1) Providing election-related equipment

Approximately \$9.5 million of non-project-grant-aid, including provision of 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 \$ 8.08 million, decided on September 2006)

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

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

Reintegration of former child soldiers to the society: approximately \$ 2.98 million

Emergency health services for children and women: approximately \$ 1.47 million

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

Emergency reproductive health care services through mobile health camps: \$ 0.4 million

(4) Food Aid and Grant Assistance for Under-privileged Farmers

Food aid: \$ 2.5 million (decided on March 2007), Grant assistance for underprivileged farmers: \$ 2.5 million (decided on March 2007), Food aid for poverty reduction: approximately \$ 4.0 million (January 2008), General contributions to WFP: \$ 0.5 million (July 2008)

1. (6) (Support for the Efforts for Democracy and Peace-building)

**PAKISTAN : CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY, SUPPORT FOR STABILIZATION
IN THE BORDER REGION WITH AFGHANISTAN**

Japan has provided assistance for the general election in Pakistan in February 2008 to ensure free, fair and transparent election leading to the consolidation of democracy. It is important to support for the border region including Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA), and Japan is making efforts for building G8 coordination mechanism.

1. Support for Consolidation of Democracy

(1) Program to Support General Elections and State Legislature's Elections (approximately \$ 3.5 million) (May 2007)

Japan granted approximately \$ 3.5 million through UNDP for purchasing half-transparent ballot boxes, screens for polling stations for free, fair and transparent general election and state legislature's election.

(2) Dispatch of Election Monitoring Group (February 2008)

Japan dispatched 15 members of election monitoring group consisting of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and private experts and others.



Delivery of Ballot boxes granted by Japanese government the day before the polling day (Lahore)

2. Support for Stability in the Border Region

In the border region including Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA), Japan provides assistance in such fields as education and health for poverty reduction and regional stabilization.

(1) Japan's Support since May 2007

- The Project for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (through UNICEF) : (Grant Aid: approximately \$ 400 million)
- Sector Program Grant Aid for FATA residents (approximately \$ 7 million)
- Support for Maternal and Child Health Nutrition in FATA and Baluchistan (WFP) (\$ 0.3 million)
- Fund a scholarship program preferential for FATA (approximately \$ 0.7 million)
- Project for construction and renewal of schools in FATA(approximately \$ 2.7 million)

(2) Japan, as the G8 chair country, has made efforts so that G8 members send message to strengthen support to the border region including FATA

At G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kyoto, G8 has agreed to support stability and economic development in Pakistan and the border region including FATA for the peace and stability in the region and international society.

1. (7) (Support for the Efforts for Democracy and Peace-building)

SRI LANKA : SUPPORT FOR PEACE PROCESS

Japan has consistently supported peace process in Sri Lanka and will continue to actively support the efforts by the Government of Sri Lanka.

1. Support for Peace Process

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

After the cease-fire agreement was signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) in February 2002, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, former UN Undersecretary General, was appointed as “Representative of the Government of Japan on Peace-building and Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Sri Lanka” in the fall of 2002. He has provided indirect support for promoting the peace process through exchanging opinions extensively with the officials of the Sri Lankan Government, representatives of ethnic minorities and intellectuals. He has visited Sri Lanka 15 times so far.

(2) Dispatch of Prof. Yokota to International Independent Group of Eminent Persons (IIGEP)

Since July 2006, human rights situation has deteriorated, and the Government of Sri Lanka established the Commission of Inquiry (CoI) for the investigation and resolution of the 16 incidents of grave human rights violations. IIGPE (International Independent Group of Eminent Persons) was established to monitor the activities of CoI. Japan dispatched Prof. Yozo Yokota, Professor of International Law, Chuo Law School, to IIGEP from February 2007 to March 2008.

2. Support for Promoting Consolidation of Peace

Japan has implemented assistance for the residents of northern and eastern areas impoverished due to ethnic conflicts, to promote consolidation of peace by leveraging economic assistance as “dividends of peace”.

(1) Support for internally displaced persons through international organizations such as UNHCR and WFP

Assistance materials, including 10,000 sleeping mattress, 10,000 feed-water containers, 4,000 plastic sheets, was provided for ten thousand people, in accordance with the International Peace Cooperation Law, at the request of UNHCR for a large number of IDPs caused by intensifying conflicts in July 2006. In December 2007, support for approximately \$5.0 million of rice and canned tunas for refugees mainly of northern and eastern areas through WFP.



Providing relief goods from Japan

(2) The Project for Construction of New Mannar Bridge and Improvement of Causeway (Grant Aid : FY 2006~, 15.8million dollars)

Construction of the new bridge (about 100m) between Mannar Island in Mannar province of Northern and Eastern State and mainland as well as the improvement of connecting roads(Causeway about 3.5km)

(3) Agriculture and Development for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction through Community Approach in Trincomalee (technological cooperation(FY 2005~2009))

(4) Livelihood Development Programme in conflict-affected areas in Sri Lanka through UNDP

Support for approximately \$5.0 million in March 2008

(5) Poverty Alleviation Micro Finance Project (II) (ODA Loan: FY2008, \$22.2 million)

2. (1) (Support for Promoting Regional Connectivity)

SUPPORT FOR PROMOTING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

The promotion of regional connectivity continues to be important for stability and prosperity in South Asia. The enhancement of connectivity in the fields of infrastructure, economy and energy contributes to the development of SAARC. On the other hand, South Asia faces the urgent problems such as rising oil prices and climate change. Japan will continue to cooperate with SAARC in these fields.

1. Improvement of Infrastructure

(1) SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Study (SRMTS) by ADB

Japan considers a future direction of cooperation after the progress of discussions within SAARC on the priority of projects proposed in SRMTS.

(2) Improvement of Infrastructure through bilateral assistance (recent examples)

- Hyderabad Outer Ring Road Project (Phase 1) (ODA Loan: \$360.8 million)
- The Project for the Improvement of Katmandu - Bhagalpur Road (Grant Aid: \$ 0.4 million)
- Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project (ODA Loan: \$ 11.3 million)

2. Promotion of inter-regional trade and investment

Since the ratio of interregional trade and investment has been at a low level, Japan considers to hold a symposium on how to expand inter-regional trade and investment and strengthen Japan-SAARC economic relationship utilizing the SAARC-Japan Special Fund since the ratio of interregional trade and investment has been low.

3. Environment and Energy

(1) The 2nd Japan-SAARC Symposium

Japan organized with Islamabad Strategic Study, Islamabad (ISSI), the Symposium on “Energy and Connectivity” at Islamabad in June 2008. Panelists discussed challenges accompanying increasing energy demand and others in the SAARC region, and adopted the recommendations (attached) on promoting energy cooperation including promotion of existing SAARC projects.



Discussions in Japan-SARRC Symposium

(2) Improvement of Energy Infrastructure and Support for Environmental Conservation (recent examples)

- Haryana Transmission System Project (India)
- Uttar Pradesh Participatory Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation Project (India)
- The Project for the construction of New Kawasoti Substation (Nepal)
- Punjab Transmission Lines and Grid Stations Project (I) (Pakistan)

(3) Inviting Trainees

35 trainees were invited from SAARC countries in FY 2007 in the fields of energy resources and disaster prevention. In FY 2008, more than 25 trainees will be invited in the same field.

(Reference) **RECOMMENDATIONS OF JAPAN–SAARC SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY
AND CONNECTIVITY HELD AT ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 10–11, 2008**

The participants of the Japan–SAARC Symposium on Energy and Connectivity held on June 10–11, 2008 recommend that:

- 1. With greater sense of urgency, recognizing the tremendous energy resource potential of this region and vital role of energy in economic, social, human development and poverty reduction, Japan and SAARC Member States expedite energy cooperation in SAARC region through active participation of Japan and SAARC Member States;*
- 2. SAARC Member States for this purpose should continue to make use of the technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources for capacity building, technology transfer, energy efficiency and specific project formulation. SAARC Member States should mutually share information on their own progress, technical know-how, identify their needs, barriers and possible solutions;*
- 3. Japan and SAARC Member States continue dialogue for possible means and cooperate where appropriate to improve regional connectivity in energy sector in the SAARC region through expansion of energy infrastructure, development of both conventional and non-conventional energy resources and technologies. Efforts should be made for fostering private and public partnership, R&D, and cooperation with academics, civil society and the media. To this end, the consideration must be made on economic and social cost-benefit analysis keeping in mind the specificities of each State;*
- 4. Priority areas of energy cooperation in the SAARC region may include: energy infrastructure development, regional trade of energy, sharing of hydroelectric resources and demand side management including sharing and promoting efficient and cleaner energy technologies, promotion of renewable sources of energy and human resources development;*
- 5. The parties engaged in the current projects for constructions of gas pipelines connecting one or more SAARC countries to external energy sources in the region urgently address outstanding issues related to such projects delaying the finalization of these projects;*
- 6. Japan and SAARC Member States make efforts to promote public awareness on the need for regional energy cooperation including fields such as energy access and affordability, energy conservation and ways to improve energy efficiency and SAARC Member States welcome Japan to share its experience and technology in energy conservation;*
- 7. Programs and activities of SAARC Energy Centre for advancing energy cooperation in the SAARC region should be strongly supported through provision of human, financial, infrastructural, technical and material resources; and*
- 8. SAARC Member States consider establishing an inter-governmental framework for implementing the agreed program of action in energy cooperation. SAARC Member States may also consider possibility of joining the Energy Charter Treaty to promote regional energy cooperation.*

2. (2) (Support for Promoting Regional Connectivity)

SUPPORT FOR ENHANCEMENT OF REGIONAL DISASTER PREVENTION AND DISASTER REDUCTION SYSTEM

Disaster Prevention is important in South Asia, since numerous natural disasters happen in the region. Japan has implemented the Disaster Risk Reduction Program by SAARC-Japan Special Fund, and has supported by Grant Aids of Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction through international organizations, as well as regional disaster prevention/countermeasure system on a bilateral basis.

1. Disaster Risk Reduction Program in wide area by SAARC-Japan Special Fund

(1) Japan-SAARC Workshop for Disaster Risk Reduction (October 2007, in Delhi)

Under the joint auspices of Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC, Kobe, Japan) and SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC, India), experts from Japan and SAARC countries discussed about the latest policy on disaster risk reduction in “SAARC-Japan Workshop on Regional Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction”.



Discussions at SAARC-Japan Workshop

(2) Feasibility Study for Creating Hazard Map of Disaster Risk Reduction

ADRC will have completed a feasibility study in August and will start creating a hazard map while collecting data of SAARC's geography/population, and satellite photos.

(3) Survey of Indigenous Knowledge about Disaster Risk Reduction

This project will survey and share indigenous knowledge of regional peculiarities in about Disaster Risk Reduction of each SAARC country.

2. Support for UNDP Earthquake Risk Reduction Programme

“Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for South Asia Region” (Grant Aid for Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction) has been implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan since 2007. Regional workshop with those 5 countries will be held in Nepal in August 10-12, 2008, in which Japanese experts will participate.

3. Improvement of Disaster Reduction System by bilateral cooperation (recent examples)

(1) Sri Lanka

□ “The project for Improvement of Meteorological and Disaster Information Network” (Grant Aid for Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction) in implementation (\$ 6.96 million in FY2007) .

(2) Bangladesh

□ “ The Programme for Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Area Affected by the Cyclone Sidr (Grant Aid for Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction , \$ 8.5 million in FY 2008)

□ The Project for the Establishment of the Meteorological Radar System at Moulvibazar (Grant Aid for Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction, \$ 8.6 million in FY 2007)



Image of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter

3. (Promotion for Youth Exchanges)

PROMOTION OF EXCHANGES OF YOUNG PEOPLE FUNDED BY SAARC-JAPAN SPECIAL FUND

1. Japan contributed approximately \$7 million to the SAARC-Japan Special Fund for Youth Exchange Programs, in view of significance in promoting people-to-people exchanges between Japan and South Asian countries.
2. Utilizing the fund, Japan is planning to invite several hundred of youths annually to Japan from the SAARC member countries over the five years from 2007. As for their schedule during their stay in Japan, they will experience internship in companies and research activities for university students, promotion of Japanese language teachers' and learners' skills, and research activities with Japanese researchers in the science and engineering fields are under consideration.
3. Japan wishes to develop fruitful exchange programs through consultations and cooperation with SAARC member countries in annually revising the program.
4. Contribution to the SAARC-Japan Special Fund, except for youth exchange, was also resumed in fiscal year 2007. We will continue to provide active support to the SAARC utilizing this Fund.

Contents of the Programs

(1) High School Students Invitation Program

This program invites high school students from every SAARC country for 10-day program including home stay and they visit to Japanese high schools. 40 students are invited in FY 2007 and about 80 students are planned to be invited in FY 2008.

(2) Invitation Programs for Japanese learners and teachers

This program invites students and teachers of Japanese language in order to promote their eagerness to learn and to provide opportunities to enhance their skill as Japanese language teachers. 47 students and teachers were invited in FY 2007 in both programs and about 67 students and teachers are planned to be invited in FY 2008.

(3) SAARC Students Internship Program (implemented fully since FY 2008)

Invite Internship students of SAARC countries from students, mainly at university level, for internship in private companies and universities. 80 students are planned to be invited in FY 2008.



Japanese calligraphy class by SAARC participants

(4) Invitation Program for Science and Technological Human Resources (conducted since FY2008)

Invite graduate students and post-doctoral students in science and technology from universities of SAARC countries. They will exchange with Japanese researchers and contact with Japan's latest technology through visits to universities and private companies. 32 students are planned to be invited in FY 2008.

(5) Asian Young Business Person Exchange Program (FY 2007)

Invite young business people and entrepreneurs from SAARC countries and promote their understandings about Japan through visiting companies and experiencing culture. 15 people were invited in FY 2007.

(Appendix) ODA Projects for SAARC Member Countries in FY2007 (Total amount* and examples)

(*Total amount is the sum of ODA Loan (the Grant Limit) and Grant Aid)

1. Afghanistan (Total amount : \$46.4 million)

- Sector Program Grant Aid (Support for Economic Social Reform) (Grant Aid : \$25.9 million)
- The Programme for Enhancement of Literacy in Afghanistan (Grant Aid : \$12.9 million)
- Food Aid (through WFP) (Grant Aid : \$3.4 million)
- The Project for Infectious Disease Prevention for Children in Afghanistan (Grant Aid : \$4.3 million)

In addition, in FY 2008, the Program for Support of the Integrated Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups Initiative (Phase 2) (Grant Aid : \$4.2million) , Food Aid (through WFP) (Grant Aid : \$4.1million) , the Project for the Infectious Diseases Prevention for Children in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (through UNICEF) (Grant Aid : \$4.0million) , the Program for Enhancement of Border Management Capacity in Takhar Province (Grant Aid: \$10 million) are implemented.

2. Bangladesh (Total amount : \$394.7 million)

- The Project for the Provision of Portable Steel Bridges on Upazila and Union Roads(Phase 3) (Grant Aid : \$5.3 million)
- The Project for the Improvement of the Storm Water Drainage System in Dhaka City (Phase II) (Grant Aid : \$7.9 million)
- The Project for the Establishment of the Meteorological Radar System at Moulvibazar(Grant Aid : \$8.6 million)
- The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (Grant Aid : \$2.5 million)
- Emergency Disaster Damage Rehabilitation Project (ODA Loan : \$60.0million)
- New Haripur Power Plant Development Project (ODA Loan : \$153.2 million)
- Dhaka-Chittagong Railway Development Project (ODA Loan : \$11.3 million)
- Small Scale Water Resources Development Project (ODA Loan : \$45.8 million)

In addition, in FY 2008, the Programme for Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in the Area Affected by the Cyclone Sidr (Grant Aid : \$8.5 million) and the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (Grant Aid : \$2.6 million) are implemented.

3. Bhutan (Total amount : \$32.6 million)

- Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers (Grant Aid : \$18 thousand)
 - Rural Electrification Project (ODA Loan : \$30.8million)
- In addition, in FY 2008, The Project for Construction Educational Facilities (Grant Aid : \$9.4million) and the Project for Improvement of Equipment of Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation (Grant Aid : \$5.3 million) are implemented.

4. India (Total amount : \$1942.6 million)

- The Project for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis in India (Grant Aid : \$1.8 million)
- Maharashtra Transmission System Project (ODA Loan : \$144.3 million)
- Goa Water Supply and Sewerage Project (ODA Loan : \$196.6 million)
- Haryana Transmission System Project (ODA Loan : \$180.2 million)
- Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 2)(III) (ODA Loan : \$621.6 million)
- Kolkata East-West Metro Project (ODA Loan : \$55.5 million)
- Hyderabad Outer Ring Road Project (Phase 1) (ODA Loan : \$360.8 million)
- Uttar Pradesh Participatory Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation Project (ODA Loan : \$115.0 million)
- Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (ODA Loan : \$193.0 million)
- Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Project (ODA Loan : \$73.7 million)

5. Maldives (Total amount : \$7.8 million)

- Food Aid (Grant Aid : \$2.0 million)
- The Project for Construction of the Second Girls Secondary School in Male' (Grant Aid : \$5.8 million)

6. Nepal (Total amount : \$11.2 million)

- Food Aid (Grant Aid : \$3.5 million)
- The Project for the Improvement of Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road (Grant Aid : \$0.4 million)

- The Project for the construction of New Kawasoti Substation (Grant Aid : \$7.3 million)

7. Pakistan (Total amount : \$13.4 million)

- Non-Project Program Grant Aid (Grant Aid : \$6.0 million)
- Emergency Grant Aid for the General Elections and the Provincial Assemblies Elections of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Grant Aid : \$3.5million)
- The Project for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (through UNICEF) (Grant Aid : \$3.8 million)

In addition, in FY 2008, Punjab Transmission Lines and Grid Stations Project (I) (ODA Loan : \$17.2 million) , Punjab Irrigation System Improvement Project (ODA Loan : \$00.7 million) , Rural Roads Construction Project (II) (Sindh) (ODA Loan : \$80.8 million) , East-West Road Improvement Project (N70) (I) (ODA Loan : \$137.1 million)

8. Sri Lanka (Total amount : \$34.1 million)

- Livelihood Development Programme in conflict-affected in Sri Lanka (through UNDP) (Grant Aid : \$4.7 million)
- The Project for Improvement of Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital (Grant Aid : \$0.9 million)
- Food Aid (Grant Aid : \$4.3 million)
- The Project for the Improvement of Display Equipment of the Sigiriya Museum (Grant Aid : \$1.5 million)
- The Project for Improvement of Meteorological and Disaster Information Network (Grant Aid : \$7.0 million)
- The Project for Construction of New Mannar Bridge and Improvement of Causeway (Grant Aid : \$15.8 million)

In addition, in FY 2008, The project for Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital (Grant Aid : \$16.0 million) , Non-Project Grant Aid (Grant Aid : 11.5 million dollars) , Greater Colombo Urban Transport Development Project (Phase 2)(I) (ODA Loan : \$49.3 million) , Southern Highway Construction Project (II) (ODA Loan : \$150.9 million) , Water Sector Development Project (II) (ODA Loan : \$72.3 million) , Poverty Alleviation Microfinance Project (II) (ODA Loan : \$22.2 million) , Energy Diversification Enhancement Project (Engineering Service) (ODA Loan : \$7.1 million) are implemented.