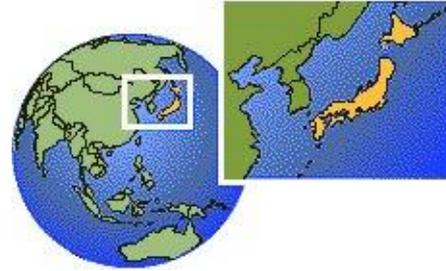


II-G. Profile of Japan ¹

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1. Japan's Approach to Environmental Security

As Japan's post-war record shows, it has successfully developed and utilized pollution control and disaster prevention technology to handle environmental threats and natural hazards. Because of this, Japan gives priority to international cooperation in the field of environment and disaster reduction, as well as dealing with other risks that threaten the world globally. It is to be noted that there is no separate "environmental security sector" in the Japanese system since the Japanese do not treat environmental security as a separate concept. Rather, it is embedded in the broader operational framework of overseas development assistance (ODA), which is in turn based on human security. Likewise, food, health, agriculture and other development assistance projects undertaken by the Government of Japan (GOJ) in various countries, which are made even more complex by pandemic threats ranging from SARS and HIV/AIDS to regional and international conflicts to financial crisis, all fall under the 'human security' description.

While ODA is administered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), environmental issues are intrinsically covered by Japan's Ministry of Environment (MOE) by virtue of the bureaucratic segregation that characterizes Japanese administration. Since 2003, human security became its centrepiece approach to ODA and is therefore often referred to in the next sections.

Japan's Approach to Human Security

Japan has adopted an active stance in promoting human security in both its bilateral and multilateral development activities. Japan's bilateral development assistance is done through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an organization within the purview of the MOFA. Multilaterally, Japan has promoted the human security concept through the United Nations since 1999. The Japanese government has provided funds to institutional and financial mechanisms which help mainstream human security into planning and implementation of projects and programs in developing countries.

Relevant Definitions

Japan's Diplomatic Bluebook (2004) <<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/2004>> states that the concept of human security "means *in addition to providing national*

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protection (italics provided), focusing on each and every person, eliminating threats to people through cooperation by various countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, and striving to strengthen the capacity of people and society so as to enable people to lead self-sufficient lives.” The meaning of human security is therefore expanded to go beyond ‘conventional’ national security. Human security goes further to work out solutions by tackling the root of the problem, like causes of vulnerability.

Japan’s efforts to promote human security encompass issues that often require global solutions and international cooperation such as controlling infectious diseases, ensuring safe water, building disaster-resilient societies, mitigating climate change, controlling transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, and assuring human rights. Official documents of the MOFA shows how Japan’s bureaucracy strives to be consistent with the concept of human security as defined in the final report of the Commission on Human Security (CHS), a body established in the United Nations with a two-year (2001-2003) task to develop the concept and discuss wide-ranging development issues.

Human Security in Japanese Context: A Chronology

Japan’s initiative for human security dates back to the Asian financial crisis of 1997. This is according to Yuko Takasu, Japan’s Ambassador for Human Security in his speech at the APEC Human Security Seminar in Tokyo in October 2005 (APEC Human Security Seminar Co-Chair’s Report:

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/apec/semminar0510-2.html>.

In December 1998, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi gave a policy speech entitled “Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia’s Tomorrow” in Hanoi, where he expressed his view on human security and announced the establishment of a fund in the amount of JY500 million (US \$4.2 million) in the United Nations. This sum for aid projects of UN-related agencies came to be known as the Trust Fund for Human Security (thereafter, the Trust Fund) when it was formally established in March 1999. A pioneering effort within the UN to broaden the conventional idea of security came with the establishment of the Commission on Human Security (CHS). The Commission was established in January 2001 in response to a call by then Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori. The Commission was “mandated to develop the concept of human security and make recommendations that will serve as guidelines for concrete action to be taken by the international community.”⁴ Co-chaired by a Japanese, the former UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata and Nobel Peace Prize winner Professor Amartya Sen, the CHS was generously supported by the Japanese government as part of its advocacy in its global diplomacy. Based on the final report of the CHS which came out in May 2003, Japan put the concept to practice by revising its guidelines to proposals submitted to obtain the Trust Fund. The revised guidelines require having a number of international organizations and NGOs participate, considering the interconnectedness of regions to maximize the benefits of projects, and notably integrating humanitarian assistance with development assistance. In FY 2003, the Fund was increased to approximately 3 billion yen from 2.3 billion yen in FY1999. With its development assistance budget, JICA also undertakes human security projects in developing countries.

In August 2003, the Japanese Cabinet approved the new Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter, the first revision made in 11 years. Then in October 2003, CHS Co-chair S. Ogata was appointed JICA president. When she assumed the position, JICA’s three principles were adopted, namely: (1) field-oriented approach, (2) human security, and (3) effectiveness, efficiency, and speed. JICA claims that “‘human security’ is now seen as a necessary concept to protect the life, livelihood and dignity of the individual.”

⁴ Japan’s ODA White Paper 2002 (MOFA).

Ogata believes that values relevant to human security have been in Japan's policies all the while. In her speech at the Asian Society in New York on November 24, 2004, she said: "Japan traditionally had incorporated the aspects of human security promotion in its economic development policies, although it did not consciously call it "human security. In providing development assistance in Asia, Japan had stressed self-reliance and ownership, building the capacity of people."

<<http://www.asiasociety.org/speeches/ogata04.html>>

Human Security and the Environment

The nexus between human security and the environment is not being dealt with explicitly by the government under the cloak of "environmental security." Environmental issues are dealt with by the Ministry of Environment (MOE). The MOE conducts and supports projects in organizations to which part of its budget is appropriated. Typically, the MOE promotes knowledge building, knowledge sharing and technology transfer among countries in solving urban environmental problems, industrial pollution and global climate change. Nevertheless, there is an implicit recognition that environmental security in projects like slum upgrading and forest management is essential. In the latter project types, ministries like the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries provide their expertise and other resources within Japan's ODA system.

Note: Within the context described, the following paragraphs thus describe the linkages of international development activities with environmental departments and disaster management institutions mainly.

2. Japan's Overarching Environmental Security Priorities

According to Japan's Diplomatic Bluebook 2004, the following are the central themes in its promotion of human security: (1) water; (2) global environmental issues – international rulemaking, improving efficiency in tackling global environmental issues (e.g. coordination between international trade rules and environmental conventions); (3) climate change; (4) disaster prevention; (5) transnational organized crime and illicit drugs; and (6) human rights. The first three have a direct relationship with so-called environmental security, while the linkage of the last three with the environment may not be as direct.

Japan's legal and institutional framework is established by the Basic Environment Law enacted in November 1993. One of the provisions of this law is that the government should formulate and adopt a Basic Environment Plan. The Cabinet approved the first Plan in December 1994. According to this law, international cooperation for the conservation of the global environment is one of the three basic principles of Japan's environmental policy. Consistent with the law, the Plan will enhance the government's international activities over the long term.

Even before the law was passed in 1993, and in a period when worldwide attention focused on the environment with the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the MOE had already participated actively in international activities as well as initiating forums. One forum that has run since 1991 is ECOASIA, the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific <<http://www.ecoasia.org/index.html>>. This forum gathers high-level government officials, experts from international organizations, private organizations and environmental researchers from the Asia-Pacific region to freely exchange views on environmental issues. The participants join the forum "in their personal capacities." This facilitates a continuing dialogue among decision makers.

The areas of cooperation may take shape in terms of one or a combination from the array of JICA's development assistance schemes: technical cooperation projects, dispatch of experts, training, development studies, grant aid, emergency disaster relief, participation by the Japanese public in international cooperation, and follow-up cooperation.

3. Factors that have prompted the Development of Japan's Environmental Security Approaches

Environment is an area wherein Japan can offer assistance to developing countries. While Japan had double digit growth in gross domestic product in the 1960s, industrial pollution worsened. Air and water pollution including heavy metal contamination affected people's health, giving rise to pollution-related diseases such as "itai-itai" which was caused by ingestion of mercury in fish, and Yokkaichi asthma that resulted from heavy air pollution from petrochemical plants. Organized citizen movements pressured local government to take action, while local officials took their complaints to the Imperial Diet. By the late 1970s, major pollution cases had been dealt with through legal, institutional and technological means resulting in a much cleaner environment for citizens. The anti-pollution movements also took the concept of citizen participation to a new level, particularly in the field of urban planning. Backed by this experience, Japan endeavoured to help other nations facing environmental problems associated with industrialization. The GOJ had been allocating funds to support official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries through different mechanisms such as bilateral aid, technical cooperation through JICA, and global instruments such as the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation.

4. How Japan has addressed its Stated Environmental Security Priorities as Regards the Selected Themes

4.1. Mainstreaming Environmental Factors into Foreign and Security Policy

The Official Development Assistance Charter (or New ODA Charter, 2003) which guides Japan's international development activities sets in place a people-centered development paradigm which puts human security, self-reliance and capacity building at the forefront so that long-lasting or sustainable socio-economic solutions are put in place. The same approach is used for post-conflict or conflict-ridden areas.

Apart from the array of available development assistance wherein Japan's MOE also participates, it deals with environmental matters of regional or global magnitude through its sustained support to think tanks, intergovernmental organizations and networks. Some of these networks involve local authorities and/or NGOs. The Ministry provides support to finance Japan-based think tanks like the Institute of Global Environment Studies (IGES) <<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/index.html>> and research granting inter-governmental body networks like the Asia-Pacific Network for Climate Change (APN). Japan is a member of the APN which promotes research to understand the complex mechanisms and impacts of global environmental problems on human health and ecosystems, and the links between science and policy making in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific is a geographic region to which Japan provides significant political and financial support. Japan, with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), has supported the assessment of the state of the environment in the region and a review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and international conventions, with the goal of formulating action programs to address critical issues through the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED).

Japan is host to UN organizations such as the International Environmental Technology Center (IETC)/ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with offices in Kusatsu, Shiga and Osaka City <<http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/index.asp>>; the World Health Organization Centre for Health Development (WHO Kobe Centre or WKC) in Kobe, Hyogo <<http://www.who.or.jp/index.html>>; the United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo <<http://www.unu.edu/>>; United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific (HOAP) in Hiroshima City <http://www.unitar.org/hiroshima/about_hoap.html>; the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Fukuoka Office (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) in Fukuoka City <<http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/index.php?la=1>>.

4.2. Mainstreaming Conflict Prevention and Livelihood Protection into Development Cooperation

JICA adopted the Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations in April 2004 to assist JICA employees and consultants assess impacts of development projects at the appropriate stages. Livelihood is among the items listed in the assessment checklist. Attention to mitigation measures under emergency conditions is emphasized for post-disaster and conflict situations <<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/policy/envi/index.html>>.

A criterion in selecting proposals to be supported by the Trust Fund for Human Security is that the direct benefits from the project will accrue to individuals who are afflicted by threats to human lives, livelihoods and dignity. Activities that the fund supports include those that reduce poverty, promote health, and help refugees and internally displaced persons to reintegrate into society. In addition to assistance through traditional channels, international organizations and NGOs have been able to participate through a scheme of grant assistance for grassroots human security projects since fiscal year 2003. Interconnectedness of regions is taken into account when implementing projects, and therefore areas are not dealt with in isolation. A problem commonly met in post-disaster and conflict situations is extended humanitarian assistance which may jeopardize true recovery and introduce dependence on dole outs. Therefore, projects ought to incorporate measures for strengthening human capacity during the period of transition as to integrate humanitarian assistance and development work.

A UN project office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with the main office in Nagoya, Japan, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) has been formulating means to integrate human security into subnational development through practical applications since it launched its initiative on human security in July 1999 <<http://www.uncrd.or.jp/hs/whatia.htm>>. UNCRD is a research and training organization, which is fully supported by the GOJ to promote local and regional development in developing countries. Carrying out this mandate, UNCRD has research and training programs dealing with human security and the environment. Specifically, a training course in local development planning and management in support of Lao PDR's National Training Programme has been funded as a JICA technical assistance project. The said National Training Programme draws upon Article 6(c) of the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development which incorporates human security for the weakest groups into planning at the provincial and district levels through strengthening of national and local programs that reflect the priorities of local communities. Additionally, UNCRD's Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office in Kobe is implementing a two-year project on reducing vulnerability of school children to earthquakes through the Trust Fund.

JICA's Effort to Ensure Conflict-sensitive Development Cooperation

Japan's ODA White Paper (Chapter 2 Section 4, on promoting human security) states that "based on the concept of human security," the Government of Japan "actively

extends ODA in such areas as refugees and internally displaced persons, land mines, education, health and medical care, and gender equality.”

Development work is pursued with strategies to empower people and bring out self-reliance so that ownership of the project by the people is promoted. This, together with ensuring accountability of project implementers and cooperators comprise the “key to human security.” Ogata believes that “strengthening the civil society provides important linkages at all levels.”

4.3. Environmental Cooperation over Degraded and Environmentally-stressed Resources

JICA’s Global Environment Department mainly deals with projects related to forest and natural conservation, environmental management, water resources, and disaster management. To cite an example, JICA promotes integrated water resources management as “a development-strategy goal”; by doing so, safe water, flood control, and water conservation are achieved

<<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/global/wate/index.html>>.

Nearly half of the disaster management projects of JICA conducted between 1990 and 2003 are flood control assistance projects (JICA pamphlet, Building a Strong Country Against Disasters). In the past, projects consisted mostly of physical measures. On one hand, disaster management now encompasses involvement and capacity building of community residents consistent with the ODA reform. On the other hand, Japan cooperates in sharing information on flood control policies through intergovernmental bodies like the International Flood Network (IFNet) and the World Meteorological Organization. IFNet was launched at the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto in March 2003. Therefore, local and international actions are taken to effectively bring benefits to people.

International Cooperation in the Environmental and Disaster Sectors

Cooperation of Japan with other nations in the environmental sector is through the Environmental Cooperation Office, Global Environmental Bureau, Ministry of Environment, with “International Environmental Cooperation toward Sustainable Development”⁵ as its motto. In the field of disaster management, Japan’s cooperation window is the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). Given the increase in demand for Japanese support in these two fields, there are other organizations which provide further help to Japanese stakeholders which may undertake cooperative activities internationally, among them NGOs and private companies.

Support to NGOs and Private Companies⁶

Groups with the same environmental objectives such as NGOs and private companies also have opportunities to conduct activities with existing funding mechanisms. The Japan Fund for Global Environment is an example. How this fund has evolved is described by the following quote:

“In 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, over 100 heads of state and government representatives of over 180 nations attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) for the conservation of the environment. In that same year in Japan before the Earth Summit, the Eminent Persons Meeting on Financing Global Environment and Development (Eminent Persons Meeting on Global

⁵ http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/coop/index_e.html

⁶ Japan Fund for Global Environment: http://www.erca.go.jp/jfge/english/frame/f_what.html

Environment) was held. During these developments, the Japanese government, in addition to ODA-type cooperative aid between nations, expressed policies to support environmental conservation activities of NGOs.

“Then the revision of the Japan Environment Corporation Law was performed, and the Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) was established in 1993. After that, the Japan Environment Corporation and the JFGE has been enacting various projects for the promotion and support of environmental conservation activities by NGOs. JFGE is transferred to The Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency (ERCA) from Japan Environment Corporation in April, 2004.”
<<http://www.erca.go.jp/jfge/english/index.html>>

NGOs, private companies and individuals can also participate and/or receive support for grassroots-oriented activities within JICA's development assistance scheme of participation by the Japanese public in international cooperation.

4.4. Inclusion of Environmental Factors in Monitoring, Mapping and Early Warning Systems

Disasters have not declined in number despite advances in science and technology. Instead, vulnerability (socio-economic, physical) and disaster risks of communities have increased in terms of lives lost, economic damage, business disruption, and environmental destruction. At the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in January 2005, Japan offered to host “an international cooperative platform, with appropriate UN engagement, for comprehensively promoting the development of disaster-resilient nations and communities in the disaster recovery process through collaborations and partnerships between stakeholders.” This became the International Recovery Platform, which was formally established in May of the same year in the city of Kobe, where ten years before, an earthquake of magnitude 7.3 (now known as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake) wrought heavy destruction to a complex urban area never experienced in the world before.

In the wake of the Asia Tsunami, which happened in December 26, 2004, a Special Session on the Indian Ocean Disaster was held during the WCDR as proposed by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. The resulting Common Statement of the Special Session underlined the strengthening of regional cooperation in disaster reduction. In this regard, Japan has cooperated through the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

In 2003, Japan pledged at the Group of Eight (G8) Summit to contribute towards detection of abnormal weather and the prompt and accurate forecast of disaster situations such as by sharing satellite data. Through its research institutions, Japan generates geographically based information to help cope with different kinds of hazards. Among the relevant activities are: (a) the Global Mapping Project <<http://www.iscgm.org>>, (b) participation by the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) in international campaigns and services like joint observation that relates to global environment and geophysical phenomena <<http://www.gsi.go.jp/ENGLISH>>; and (c) the launching of the Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS) by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) <<http://www/jaxa.jp/missions/>>. These institutions provide expert and training input for technical assistance to developing countries via JICA's development assistance scheme.

4.5. Environment and Security Risk and Needs Assessment and Management

Risk assessment in Japan gains from the advances of science and technology (S&T). Some efforts to develop risk assessment/risk analysis methodologies and eventually improve risk management systems are mentioned below. The type of research described may have a substantial impact on both national and international policies as it addresses

societal aspects. Addressing issues from a more proactive research perspective are not as straightforward. Determining how transferable experiences are may require more input on the contextual background, such as when assessing if a good practice in one country can work in another. Culture can play a role in the application of technical standards for instance (Britton, Neil R. 2005 "Culture, Risk Management and Insurance," in N.R. Britton, Catastrophe Insurance: The Challenges for Insurers in the Asia-Pacific Region," Aon Re Australia Ltd, pp.147-169). Transferability of experience can be critical to the success of development assistance.

The White Paper on Science and Technology (2004) put emphasis on the relationship between S&T, and society and creating a safe and secure society. Thus, risk management pertaining to environmental quality, food safety, health, and disaster mitigation, to name a few, have been highlighted in research projects. The Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX) established in 2001 undertakes mission-oriented programs initiated by the Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) <www.ristex.jp/english/english/top_e.html>. Mission-oriented programs are "comprised of selected important research subjects (missions) for finding solutions to social issues." RISTEX thus pursues interdisciplinary research into S&T to develop knowledge systems. Various problems of society such as risks associated with food, health, disasters, and others and crosscutting issues are topics that are also considered for contract research.

Another interdisciplinary research project (1998-2004), "Development of Earthquake and Tsunami Mitigation Technologies and Their Integration for the Asia-Pacific Region (EqTAP)" <<http://eqtap.edm.bosai.go.jp/>> placed attention on implementation and process integration as well as stakeholder involvement. These were deemed important in order to achieve the disaster risk reduction based on vulnerabilities. The approach is consistent with the risk management framework based on the Australia/New Zealand Standard for Risk Management (AS/NZS4360), i.e., the process is characterized by communication and consultation with stakeholders. Also, establishing the context is emphasized. This standard is currently being examined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to be adopted as the basis of international standards similar to the ISO14000 series. Japan's risk management standard (JIS Q2001) was adopted as a voluntary standard, since the private sector clamoured for a standard to increase its resilience in the wake of the 1995 Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake.

A catalog of technologies for disaster reduction is the expected output from a worldwide research survey of technologies useful in mitigating disasters whose application is complemented by implementation strategies and stakeholder involvement. S&T policy could be further enhanced by these implementation strategies <<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/un/conf0501/cooperation.html>>. Policy research on the linkages of S&T policy and disaster management in Japan has just started (Fernandez, A.L. 2005 A Comparative Study of Disaster-related Science and Technology Policies in Five Countries: A Discussion Paper, EDM, Kobe).

In contrast to the issues above, knowledge and experience in managing the urban environment (air and water quality, mainly) in Japan has been developed long enough. Public-private partnerships and stakeholder participation are acknowledged to be part and parcel of a successful program. Recognition by international organizations such as the UNEP and International Council for Local Environmental Initiative (ICLEI) gives a boost to the motivation of city authorities to participate actively through international conferences, JICA training courses, and networking. In the field of environmental cooperation, a few of Japan's local governments are becoming international actors. Kitakyushu carries out international environmental cooperation. The city has the so-called Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment which was established in November 2001; the program is linked with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/white/2002/part1_2_5_3.html>.

Thus the approach taken by the international environmental cooperation of inclusiveness of stakeholders is in harmony with the human security concept

4.6. Development Assistance, International Cooperation and Peace-building

Japan's Constitution has clear provision to use its armed forces only for self defense. The preface of the Constitution also states: "We recognize that all the peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want." The Constitution thus upholds similar rights associated with human security.

Peace and Security Interventions

Japan implements its international peace cooperation activities and administers contributions in kind through the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, which is part of the Cabinet Office <<http://www.cao.go.jp/en/international.html#pko>>. This is in accordance with the Law Concerning Cooperation for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (the International Peace Cooperation Law) passed after the Gulf War in June 1992. Another pillar of Japan's international peace cooperation is its international human relief operations.

<http://www.pko.go.jp/PKO_E/pref_e.html#5rules>

JICA's Policy of Peace-building through Development Cooperation

The New ODA Charter (2003) clarifies peace-building as an important issue of ODA. In March 2004, JICA announced a reform plan that provides for strengthening support for peacebuilding. The Office of Peace-building was established, while measures to strengthen human development and human security measures in JICA's services were devised. JICA will work with NGOs and other aid organizations to carry out peace-building support activities at the grassroots communities.

JICA's Development Assistance for Human Security

Development cooperation in JICA is guided by the so-called "seven principles of development assistance" with a "human security" perspective

<<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/policy/reform/human/index.html>>.

These are:

- (1) Reaching those in need through a people-centred approach;
- (2) Empowering people as well as protecting them;
- (3) Focusing on the most vulnerable, whose survival, livelihood and dignity are at risk;
- (4) Comprehensively addressing both "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear;"
- (5) Responding to people's needs by assessing and addressing threats through flexible and inter-sectoral approaches;
- (6) Working with both government and local communities to realize sustainable development;
- (7) Strengthening partnership with various actors to achieve higher impact from assistance.

4.7. Natural Disasters and Conflict Mitigation and Adaptation

Japan's commitment to build disaster resilience as a means to realize sustainable development is shown by its proposal at the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly to hold the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe. At the conclusion of the WCDR, the assembly adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action for 2005-2015 (HFA).

The HFA serves as the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the international community.

Even before the WCDR, Japan had taken steps to strengthen cooperation in disaster reduction with Asian countries through the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), which was officially established in 1998. The '90s was designated as the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). Cooperation in disaster reduction at the regional level was the goal that pushed the creation of ADRC.

5. How Japan characterizes the overall Strengths and Weaknesses of its Environmental Security Approaches

It appears that Japan is willing to share its experience and knowledge in both the environmental and disaster fields – two areas of human security often impacted upon. Its record in terms of hosting conferences and training courses in both fields is remarkable, particularly when the range of participants is examined, i.e., from technical personnel to political decision makers. At the top policy level, Japan's leaders put forth points for action and commitments that often have global significance in the G8. As mentioned earlier, Japan will make contributions to enable the detection of abnormal weather and the prompt and accurate determination of disaster situations through the sharing of satellite data as part of its commitment to the Earth Observation Summit.

Japan is keen in strengthening ties with developing countries through cooperation, using human security as a guiding concept. In the recent past, Japan has been known for its hardware development assistance such as the use of Japanese machines or designs in other countries. While satisfaction of engineering criteria cannot be disputed, it may not have thoroughly considered social and cultural factors. Japan can share its experience and technology successfully only if it has a contextual understanding of the partner country.

Focus on a single hazard is a mark of disaster research in Japan, where social science is also under-represented in the academic and research community. A multi-hazard approach is still not well received. However as the threat of new and very complex risks (avian flu, SARS, terrorism) become more common, a different way of coping with risks and managing them is called for. Therefore, relying simply on Japan's experience may not yield effective results. With the knowledge that the conditions between Japan and other countries are far from similar, applying something based on Japan's experience must be carefully done; it is thus useful to follow the principles of the human security concept.

6. Key Policy Lessons Learned in Terms of the Development and Implementation of Environmental Security Policy

Due to the demand from both industrialized and developing countries, there is a trend to continuously record best practices and lessons, some of which were mentioned earlier. A variety of demands need to be filled and therefore more experiences, not limited to Japan, will be useful and effective.

As emergencies arise in times of disaster or conflict, responding in a timely and effective manner has emerged as a concern. Therefore, the modality of assistance and organizational management culture need revisiting in order for JICA and other international cooperating organizations in Japan to function well in such times.

The roles of local governments, civil society and the private sector are being recognized. However such stakeholders will need incentives to fulfil tasks that the national

government cannot do. A feedback mechanism should be ensured to allow for improvements in overall development approach and specific activities.

Social aspects of working with environmental and disaster management issues need to be better understood and may therefore require a corps of Japanese development workers who are sensitively prepared for working under conditions very different from that of Japan. Horizontal cooperation among sectoral ministries may also prove useful for certain types of projects (for example, environmental improvement of low-income settlements or slum areas). Issues cut across land management, housing policy, water and sanitation, solid waste management – yet each of these are separately handled by different ministries in the Japanese bureaucracy.

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