Japanese Development Cooperation

Development policies
Japan aims to play a proactive role in international cooperation in the global community. It delivers assistance through providing funding and technology in order to contribute to economic and social development and improved welfare in a selected number of developing countries. The major recipient countries of Japanese ODA are chosen on the basis of their political and economic relevance to Japan.

Development assistance is carried out in about 160 countries and regions around the world. In 2009, Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) equalled 0.18% of GNI. Bilateral funding is channelled in the forms of grants for economic development aid and sharing expertise and knowledge in the framework of technical cooperation activities.

Besides that, Japan reaches a large number of countries through its contributions to international organizations, such as the United Nations agencies and International Financial Institutions. Another source of economic support to developing countries is provided in the form of loans from the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). In all its programmes Japan especially promotes international cooperation initiatives with NGOs as partners.

Priority countries
Japan has selected a number of countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America for its Country Assistance Programmes, although the priority is put on countries in Asia. These countries are the major recipients of Japanese ODA and include the following UNECE member States: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

However, more UNECE member States have received development assistance from Japan: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

Priority areas
The Japanese development cooperation policies are geared towards specific sectors, countries and topics. The priority issues within Japanese development assistance are the following:

1) Poverty reduction: education, health and population, water and sanitation and agriculture and rural development
2) Addressing global issues: environment, energy and disaster reduction
3) Sustainable growth: infrastructure and ICT
4) Peace building: conflict and development

Japanese development cooperation further commits itself to the cross-sectoral topics of gender, good governance and human security.
Coordination and implementation

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) is responsible for the Japanese development assistance programmes. Development cooperation activities fall under the agenda of the International Cooperation Bureau of the MoFA.

To enhance the efficiency and transparency of ODA operations, the MoFA publishes Rolling Plans and Country Assistance Programmes on its website. The Rolling Plan states for each recipient country the outline of overall Japanese assistance to that country, while the Country Assistance Programme documents give a more detailed description of the aid policy for a period of five years.

Supporting the development cooperation strategy as formulated by the Japanese government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is responsible for the technical cooperation aspect of Japan's ODA programmes. Technical cooperation is aimed at the transfer of technology and knowledge that can serve the socioeconomic development of the developing countries. JICA carries out a variety of programmes to support the nation building of developing countries through such technical cooperation.

For more information about Japanese development cooperation, please see www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/index.html

For more information about JICA, please visit www.jica.go.jp/english