

**REVISED REPORTING FORMAT
FOR
THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
WORLD FOOD SUMMIT
PLAN OF ACTION**

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Country: Japan

2. Reporting institution of unit:

- 1) Economic Security Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2) International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

3. Contact person:

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4. Institutional arrangements established for the follow-up of the WFS Plan of Action:

To carry out a follow-up with the participation of concerned ministries, as well as regular exchanges among experts and NGOs

SECTION II: PRIORITY FOOD SECURITY ISSUES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

1. Please provide a description (no more than 500 words) on the state of the country's food security situation, in terms of food availability, stability of supplies and access to food, providing relevant data on the indicators listed below. Please give an indication of the progress made in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action, and in the case of lack of progress, please indicate the most pressing constraints the country faces.

2. Member countries wishing to provide information on their external assistance programs, may submit a separate statement providing a brief description of these programs and their impact on hunger and lessons learned.

1. Japan's food security situation

Japan, with currently some 128 million people, is one of the most populated of developed countries and due to its mountainous and narrow geography, its cultivable area is extremely limited. Therefore the available land per capita is also very limited, which is less than 0.04 ha. Such a land condition is a significant handicap for Japan.

Due to this fact, Japan's overall food self-sufficiency ratio has been steadily declining and reached 40% (on a calorie supply basis in 2002), which is the lowest among major developed countries. For example, self-sufficiency ratio of grain is only 28%, while those of other countries with population of more than 100 million are mostly more than 80%. Japan considers that it is very important to ensure secure food supply and that further decrease in food self-sufficiency should be prevented.

In addition, the Japanese people, the world's largest net importer of food show strong interest in the stability of food supply. According to a public opinion survey conducted

in 2000, 80% of the overall population is concerned about the Japan's food security situation, and an even greater number of people consider that food consumed in Japan should be produced in Japan as much as possible, particularly with respect to its staple food such as rice. The Basic Law on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas formulated in 2000 targets an increase in food self-sufficiency to 45% by 2010.

2. Japan's external assistance programs

(1) Basic Policies

Japan actively utilizes ODA and intends to continue to engage strategically in activities in global issues including those relating to poverty, hunger, refugees, disasters, environment, water, peace building, democratization and human rights under the following policies. Japan's ODA for 2003 was approximately US\$ 8.9 billion (interim value) and was the world's second ODA donor.

1) Supporting self-help efforts of developing countries

The most important philosophy of Japan's ODA is to support the self-help efforts of developing countries based on good governance, by extending cooperation for their human resource development, institution building including development of legal systems, and economic and social infrastructure building, which constitute the basis for these countries' development. Accordingly, Japan respects the ownership by developing countries, and places priorities on their own development strategies.

In carrying out the above policy, Japan will give priority to assisting developing countries that make active efforts to pursue peace, democratization, and the protection of human rights, as well as structural reform in the economic and social spheres.

2) Perspective of "Human Security"

In order to address direct threats to individuals such as conflicts, disasters, infectious diseases, it is important not only to consider the global, regional and national perspectives, but also to consider the perspective of human security, which focuses on individuals. Accordingly, Japan will implement ODA to strengthen the capacity of local

communities through human resource development. To ensure that human dignity is maintained at all stages, from the conflict stage to the reconstruction and development stages, Japan will extend assistance for the protection and empowerment of individuals.

3) Assurance of fairness

In formulating and implementing assistance policies, Japan will take steps to assure fairness. This should be achieved by giving consideration to the condition of the socially vulnerable, and the gap between the rich and the poor as well as the gap among various regions in developing countries. Furthermore, great attention will be paid with respect to factors such as environmental and social impact on developing countries of the implementation of ODA.

In particular, the perspective of gender equality is important. Japan will make further efforts to improve the status of women, giving full consideration to the active participation of women in development, and to ensuring that women reap benefits from development.

4) Utilization of Japan's experience and expertise

Japan will utilize its own experience in economic and social development as well as in economic cooperation when assisting the development of developing countries, fully taking into account the development policies and assistance needs of developing countries. Japan will also utilize its advanced technologies, expertise, human resource, and institutions.

Implementation of ODA will be coordinated with key Japanese policies to ensure policy coherence, taking into consideration implications for Japan's economy and society.

5) Partnership and collaboration with the international community

Mainly with the initiative of international organizations, the international community is sharing more common development goals and strategies and various stakeholders are increasingly coordinating their aid activities. Japan will participate in this process, and endeavor to play a leading role. In parallel with collaboration with such efforts, Japan will pursue collaboration with United Nations organizations, international financial

institutions, other donor countries, NGOs, private companies, and other entities. In particular, Japan will enhance collaboration with international organizations that possess expertise and political neutrality, and will endeavor to ensure that Japan's policies are reflected appropriately in the management of those organizations.

In addition, Japan will actively promote South-South cooperation in partnership with more advanced developing countries in Asia and other regions. Japan will also strengthen collaboration with regional cooperation frameworks, and will support region-wide cooperation that encompasses several countries.

(2) Support in the food and agricultural fields

In light of World Food Summit Plan of Action, Japan actively supports developing countries' efforts to increase national food productivity. Furthermore, assistance for agricultural sector, including assistance for food production, and rural development can play a crucial role in alleviating poverty and achieving sustainable development. In view of above, Japan provides the following forms of support:

- 1) Provision of materials and equipment for food production and supporting agricultural and fisheries production through construction of irrigation and other facilities. Supporting infrastructure development and distribution management for improving access to markets.
- 2) Supporting improvement of agricultural and fishery technologies, and providing assistance for the effective dissemination of these technologies.
- 3) Paying special attention to the organization of local residents and the improvement of administrative capacities with regard to the dissemination of agricultural and other technologies and the management of agricultural and other water resources.
- 4) Food assistance as an important measure in cases of emergency.

(3) Assistance through international organizations such as FAO

The Government of Japan considers it important that expertise of international organizations is utilized in the implementation of ODA and that donor countries and international organizations cooperate in providing assistance efficiently while making

effective use of their own advantages and avoiding overlaps. From this viewpoint Japan focuses not only on bilateral cooperation in affording assistance but also on multilateral cooperation through international organizations.

Japan's contribution to FAO in 2002 is the second largest in the world with US\$ 73.9 million 19.61084% of the total contributions. A part of Japan's Grant Aid for Increase of Food Production is provided through FAO. In addition, Japan provides assistance through extra budgetary funding, US\$ 14 million in 2003, it supported various Trust Fund Programs. Japan also plans to continue and intensify assistance for the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) and the Special Program for Food Security (SPFS).

Japan also provides assistance for victims of conflicts and natural disasters through WFP and its contribution to that organization is the 4th largest in the world with US\$ 13 million in 2003. Furthermore, over US\$ 45 million of Japan's Food Aid to developing countries was implemented through WFP in 2003 JPFY.

Furthermore, in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fishery, Japan provides assistance for developing countries through international development financial institutions including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Bank for Reconstruction/World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and organizations related to technical assistance including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

(4) Assistance through the Trust Fund for Human Security

In December 1998, Mr. Obuchi, the former Prime Minister of Japan, announced his ideas on human security on the occasion of "Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia's Tomorrow". In the same speech, he announced that the Trust Fund for Human Security would be established in the United Nations Secretariat with an initial contribution of

500 million yen. By September 2004, total contributions had amounted to some 25.9 billion yen or US\$ 227million. In the fields of agriculture and fisheries, Japan and the UN have approved to extend some US\$ 8.14 million from the fund through FAO to countries such as East Timor, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan.

(5) Cooperation with NGOs and promotion of NGO activities

Japan pursues collaboration with national NGOs and those in recipient countries and promotes grass-root development activities that the local residents of developing countries can directly benefit from.

With regard to assistance programs in developing countries by Japanese NGOs, the government provides the following financial aids: 1) “NGO Project Subsidy” : 180 million yen (US\$ 1.6 million) in 2004, 2) “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO projects” to provide assistance in such areas as the improvement of facilities related to their activities: 2.7 billion yen (US\$ 24.5 million) in 2004, and 3) a “JICA Partnership Program” for projects commissioned to provide technical cooperation: 1.58 billion yen (US\$ 17.4 million) in 2004.

In addition, for FAO’s TeleFood project, the Japan FAO Association, FAO Liaison Office in Japan and the Japan Agricultural Cooperative Group play a principal role in the “FAO TeleFood fund-raising”, and the contributions collected are mainly used for the implementation of projects for the expansion of food production in developing countries in Asia.

(6) Evaluation of ODA and the civil society’s interests toward ODA

The government of Japan has been conducting evaluations of ODA for more than 20 years. Most of them are entrusted to the third party to ensure its fairness, while others are conducted by the governmental organization themselves under the Government Policy Evaluation Act, enacted in 2001. With civil society’s increasing interests in ODA, the government is required to make its ODA more accountable and transparent. To meet

the request, the government of Japan has started the publication of the evaluation results on the web in addition to the annual evaluation reports.

SECTION III: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR EACH COMMITMENT AND MEASURES TAKEN

- 1. We will describe, including possible effects on overall social and economic development, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction, various policies pursued and/or action programs implemented with respect to each commitment. We believe member nations must not only focus on commitments and themes, they are required to report on activities of the states as well as international civil society and organizations.**
- 2. Developed countries and international agencies must also provide information on the status of implementation of the WFS Plan of Action as well as their support to developing countries toward reduction of hunger and poverty, including information on how they are coordinating and harmonizing their assistance.**

Japan's "Official Development Assistance Charter", along with the "basic policies" delineated in Part 2, lists the four priority issues: 1) "poverty reduction", 2) "sustainable growth", 3) "addressing global issues" and 4) "peace-building". In Japan's ODA, a considerable emphasis is placed on some Commitments of the WFS Plan of Action that are concerned with these priority issues.

Regarding the above mentioned priority issues 1), 2) and 3), Japan is especially providing a variety of aids related to "alleviation of poverty and inequality" in the Commitment II and "sustainable and participatory policies and implementation for development of food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural settlements, and practices to combat pests, drought and desertification" in the Commitment III. Japan's contribution reached nearly 40% of the total ODA provided by the DAC member countries in the field of agriculture (exclusive of food assistance), livestock, forestry

and fisheries in 2002. Through these aids, Japan is contributing greatly to medium- and long- term efforts toward rural developments, increased production of food and attainment of food security.

In addition, Japan is providing short-term food assistance including “preparation of measures taken to prevent natural and man-made disasters” described in the Commitment V and is assisting in installation of disaster warning systems and food stockpiling systems.

Concerning Commitment I, “creation of an enabling political, social and economic environment”, Japan is expanding its assistance in “attainment of peace” which relates to the above mentioned priority issue 4). Furthermore Japan contributes to creation of an enabling political, social and economic environment in developing countries through international conferences such as TICAD, with respect to attainment of Commitment VII, “implementing and following up the Plan of Action”.

Japan’s assistance regarding Commitments I through VII is summarized below.

COMMITMENT I

Policies pursued to create an enabling political, social and economic environment. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken by your country, as well as expected results from them.

Based on the belief that political and social stability is essential to sustainable development of developing countries, Japan has been providing assistance in maintaining stability in developing countries, and especially in recent years within its budget, is expanding assistance for c) “prevention of conflict and creation of a peaceful environment”.

With respect to d) “enhancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment”, which concerns with agricultural and rural development, alleviation of poverty and the

other areas concerning Commitments II and III, Japan is providing considerable assistance in a number of programs including human resources development that focuses on women's empowerment.

Recent examples of assistance are summarized as follows:

**a) Strengthening of democratic political systems and broad-based participation,
and**

b) Improvement of human rights

Japan has been holding seminars and accepting trainees on democratization and enlargement of human rights as a partnership for democratic development.

Examples: holding of seminars for assistance in democratization (Accepting trainees and other programs in 2003)

- Invitation of the Palestinian Council members (5 individuals)
- Seminar on Democratization of Peru (10 individuals)
- Human Resources Exchange in Democratization and Public Participation (Former USSR/East European countries, 10 individuals)
- Japan/Europe Seminar/Symposium co-sponsor (2 cases)

c) Prevention of conflict and creation of a peaceful environment

International attention has been increasingly drawn on the role of development assistance in enhancing peace building and Japan also intends to play an active role in preventing conflicts and initiating reconstruction in the aftermath of such a conflict.

Examples: peace building, assistance in reconstruction, assistance in establishing legal system

- Assistance in peace building in Cambodia (Since 1999; repatriation of refugees, domestic resettlement of refugees, agricultural production, education, improvement of household income, public hygiene, establishment of legal system, financial and technical assistance in landmine clearing)

- Assistance in peace building in East Timor (Since 2000; similar projects as in Cambodia)
- Assistance in peace building in Afghanistan (Since 2002; similar as in Cambodia)
- Legal training for Palestinian officials (2003; The Third-Country Training Program; 20 individuals)

d) Enhancement of gender equality and women's empowerment

Japan focuses on the role of women in development and their human rights, and provides assistance in empowerment of women, including the enhancement of their political participation and the improvement of their social status. Furthermore the Government of Japan carries out its assistance programs for agricultural and rural development while giving due consideration to women's rights and promotion of their involvements in these activities.

Examples: Assistance toward women's empowerment

- Provision of funds for education for girls through United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (1993-present)
- Provision of fund for empowerment of women, gender equality through United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (1979-present)
- Provision of trust fund for elimination of violence against women through UNIFEM Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women (1996-present)
- Human Resources exchange programs for enhancement of women's political participation for Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian women (2003; dispatched 6 experts, invited 6 women)
- "Empowerment Plan for Women in rural areas" directed for Sabah, Malaysia: Development of the master plan for entrepreneurial and employment promotional assistance for women in rural areas (2003; Development Study Program)

COMMITMENT II

Alleviation of poverty and inequality and improvement of physical and economic access to food by all. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to items below and expected results/(eradication of) instability of food supply from them.

Japan, placing emphasis on “assurance of fairness”, and “poverty reduction” as is described in its ODA policies, provides numerous assistance programs in all the areas, a), b), c) and d) in the Commitment II with a view to promoting employment and maintaining social security structure.

Recent examples of assistance are summarized as follows:

a) Specific policies and targeted interventions to generate income and employment for the urban poor.

The Government of Japan provides technical assistance in promotion of employment and income generation focused on occupational training programs for the urban poor, and also provides funding for establishing facilities required for implementation of such programs.

Examples: technical assistance in human resources development and occupational training

- Establishment of “Human Resources Development Trust Fund” and assistance for various UNESCO programs directed to “human development” (2003: funding of about 4.4 billion yen).
- “Project for Improvement of Occupational Training Facilities for the Urban Poor” in India (2002: Grassroots Grant-aid Program)
- “Plan for Assistance in Economic Independence through Training in Sewing Skills for the urban poor” (2002: Grassroots Grant-aid Program)

b) Specific policies and targeted interventions to generate on-farm and off-farm income and employment for the rural poor, women and minority groups,

including land reform, protection of property and use rights and other strategies to ensure access to land and water resources.

The Government of Japan provides a variety of technical assistance and strengthens farmer's organization to secure employment and income generation in a wide range of areas such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including production through post-harvest processing. Japan also provides policy consultation and technical assistance regarding land use and utilization of water resource.

Examples: assistance in creation of employment and income generation and resources development and utilization in rural areas.

- Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Project in Sulawesi, Indonesia (1997-2002: Technical Cooperation Project)
- Fishing Community Empowerment Plan in Suirakedema, Morocco (1998-99: Grant-aid, Expert-dispatch)
- Survey for "Development in Water Rights and Water Marketing System" in China (FY2003 to present; Development Study Program)
- "Land Reform and Regional Development Plan" for the Government of the Philippines (FY2003: Expert-dispatch)
- Kaleo Women Empowerment and Development Project in Ghana (2000-2003: Technical Cooperation Project)

c) Provisions made to develop social safety nets, if any, to meet the needs of the poor, including those affected by HIV/AIDS in rural and urban areas.

Japan adopts a policy to increase aids for measures against infectious diseases and has been providing a variety of assistance to developing countries for 5 years since FY2000 with the total budget of \$3 billion.

Examples: assistance in infectious disease control on a regional level

- Thailand; "HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care - Regional Network Program" (1998-2003: Technical Cooperation Project)
- Mexico; "Remote Region Participatory Public Hygiene Improvement Project in

Guanajuato State” (1997-2000; Technical Cooperation Project)

d) Measures taken to ensure access to basic education and primary health care.

Japan assists developing countries in a variety of projects aiming at establishment of primary health care system and their more widespread use which is conducive to reproductive health for women and children. Japan also provides assistance to developing countries in enlightenment and construction of educational facilities in order to secure access to primary and secondary education.

Examples: assistance in reproductive health and basic education

- Indonesia: Health Notebooks for Mother and Children Project (1998-2003: Technical Cooperation Project)
- Turkey: “Audiovisual Communications in the Mother-child Health” (1998-2002: Third-Country Training Program)
- Indonesia: “Expansion Plan for Education in Mathematics and Science” (1999-2003: Technical Cooperation Project)

COMMITMENT III

Measures taken to pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices and to combat pest, drought and desertification. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to issues below and expected results/securing income and food utilization.

Japan, with a basic idea of “co-existence of various types of agriculture”, believes that sustainable agricultural and rural development is essential for the co-existence and co-prosperity of agriculture in all countries. At the same time, our government believes that it is important for developing countries to raise agricultural productivity in order to attain secure food supply. On the basis of this thinking, the government of Japan assists in a variety of programs along the line of Commitment III in accordance with ODA priority issues mentioned above.

In this connection, Japan believes that participation of potential beneficiaries in aid

projects, including their planning and implementation, is of utmost importance from the viewpoint of sustainability. The sustainability depends not only on the appropriateness of the projects to local requirements, but also on whether they meet the needs of their potential beneficiaries.

Outlines of the assistance concerning the areas are as follows:

a) Policies and actions taken to intensify and diversify food production

In order to make contributions to poverty reduction and enhancement of food security through improvement in productivity and diversification, the Government of Japan provides various medium- and long-term assistance. Focusing on the activities directed to the poor in rural areas, the Japanese Government provides aids, which includes 1) selection of crops and research, experiments and more widespread use regarding cultivation techniques which are suitable to the region concerned, 2) provision of fertilizers, machinery and other items required for the new farming operations, 3) development of infrastructure, such as irrigation/drainage system on an appropriate scale and technical level for the region, and 4) strengthening of farmers' organization and their capacities to maintain such systems. Japan also provides aids in programs which promote animal husbandry, chicken farming and fish-farming with a view to contributing to direct improvement in nourishment and income of farm households.

Japan makes contribution toward development and dissemination of New Rice for Africa (NERICA). Japan has dispatched researchers and experts, and extended support through the crossbreeding of Asia rice and African rice. Thus far, Japan has contributed approximately JPY500 million funds for the research and development of NERICA, carried out by the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA). In addition, Japan has undertaken experimental cropping or collaboration with agricultural research institutes in several countries in East and South Africa.

b) Actions taken to combat environmental threats against food security,

especially i) drought and desertification, ii) pests, iii) erosion of biodiversity and iv) degradation of land and aquatic based natural resources

Japan provides a variety of aids, in cooperation with international community, to address environmental issues, which are common challenges for all humankind. Especially, from the viewpoint of dealing with the above mentioned issues, Japan provides various assistances for the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in developing countries.

Japan is a member country to international agreements including “UN Convention on Biological Diversity”, “Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity”, “UN Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, (particularly in Africa)” and “1994 International Tropical Timber Agreement” and it continuously seeks international cooperation through those mechanisms.

In the area of i), “drought and desertification”, for example, technical cooperation projects have been carried out to increase capacities and to build up systems for the prevention of desertification in Africa (Republic of Mali, Burkina Faso) and China. In addition, grant aid projects have provided assistance to forest for the prevention of desertification in China and India, loan aid projects have provided it in China, Vietnam, Senegal.

With respect to the use of pesticides to deal with ii) “Pest and disease”, the Government of Japan has taken a stance, after a comprehensive review on the Grant Aid for Increase of Food Production Scheme in December 2002, that, in principle, it will not provide agricultural chemicals or pesticides from the view point of proper use and environmental consideration, except when it is implemented in an appropriate manner by international organizations. For example, Japan has extended assistance to FAO’s Desert Locust Control Projects in Northwest Africa in 2004 which includes not only spraying of pesticides but also a very thorough monitoring activities and research plan.

On the occasion of the epidemic of Avian influenza in Southeast Asia in 2004, Japan has provided emergency grant aids through FAO and dispatched experts in the field.

Concerning conservation and exploitation of plant genetic resources in food and agriculture, the Government of Japan is conducting research in cooperation with appropriate research institutions and is making contributions, through FAO, to instituting legal system for assurance of environmental safety from genetically modified organisms within developing countries.

c) Transfer and use of agricultural technologies

Japan carries out a variety of assistance, such as dispatch of experts, acceptance of trainees, provision of equipment and implementation of “Technical cooperation project”, which is an adequate combination of those above mentioned schemes, with respect to a), b) and d) of “Commitment III”, for the sake of transferring agricultural technologies. In FY2003, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the implementing agency of technical cooperation, dispatched total 305 experts and 190 volunteers to developing countries and accepted 1,328 trainees from developing countries in the field of agriculture.

In September 2003, the Government of Japan has developed “International Agricultural Research Initiative” which holds “alleviation of poverty”, “balancing between environment and development” and “responding to global issues” as priority areas, and promotes cooperation with research institutions in developing countries and coordination with CGIAR.

d) Formulation and implementation of integrated rural development

Development of rural area where about 70% of the poor is said to live, contributes to both increased agricultural output and poverty reduction. Japan has been assisting

integrated and comprehensive agricultural and rural development, the objective of which is not limited to increased agricultural output. The assistance is flexible, taking the realities and the potentials of the region into account. And the assistance may cover, for example, the establishment of farming system, the promotion of post-harvest activities, creation of employment and increase in household income through enhancement of farmers' and women's organizations, and the facility improvement in better access to market places and living conditions, etc.

COMMITMENT IV

Measures taken to ensure that food and agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security. Please give details of the nation-level strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to:

***Advanced countries and International Organizations may report on steps taken in actions described below.**

Japan provides following assistance in developing strategies or initiatives of developing countries while taking into account the developments of WTO agricultural negotiations concerning items in Commitment IV.

- a) Promote financial and technical assistance to improve agricultural productivity and infrastructure of developing countries, especially Low Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in order to optimize opportunities arising from the international trade framework**

In order for the developing countries, especially the LIFDCs, to optimize opportunities arising from the international trade framework, in providing Japan's ODA for agricultural and rural development and improvement of agricultural productivity, natural, social and economic conditions of the recipient countries are duly taken into account, while selecting appropriate crop varieties and farming techniques, and appropriate level and scale of infrastructure for them.

Japan also considers it important that developing countries participate in WTO negotiations on agriculture with the understanding of their own situations and that they are properly reflected in the negotiations. Since 1999 Japan has been providing a trust fund, separately from the umbrella program, to provide assistance to developing countries in effective participation in WTO negotiations. In addition, the Government of Japan, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), offers training on WTO negotiations to the staff of ASEAN countries, who are involved in the negotiations.

b) Reduce subsidies on food exports in conformity with the Uruguay Round Agreement in the context of the on-going process of reform in agriculture conducted in the World Trade Organization (WTO)

The Government of Japan had granted no export subsidies even before the Uruguay Round Agreement.

c) Implement the Decision of Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries through the WTO Committee on Agriculture.

Japan has been taking the following actions in accordance with the Decision by the WTO Committee on Agriculture:

- As food aid provided to Least-Developing Countries and Net Food Importing Developing Countries (LDCs and NFIDCs), the total amount of funds which the Government of Japan granted to be used to purchase grain was US\$ 96.91 million in 2001 (in fully grant form).
- As technical and financial assistance to LDCs and NFIDCs, Japan provided in 2001:
 - Grant assistance (Fully grant form) ; US\$ 187.62 million
 - Technical cooperation; US\$ 104.11 million
 - ODA Loans (Appropriate concessional terms); US\$ 0.03 million

COMMITMENT V

Measures taken to prevent and to be prepared for natural and man-made disaster. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken, and results expected/possibilities through them.

In parallel with the medium and long-term commitments for food security in Commitments II and III, Japan especially provides emergency and humanitarian assistance including food aids to developing countries suffered from natural and man-made disasters. With respect to prevention and mitigation of disasters, the following assistance is also provided:

a) Institutional arrangements for early warning and advance information on possible emergencies

As a part of FAO Trust Fund operation, Japan assists in establishing the Asian Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS). In the phase I of the project, (1997-2001), indexing data system was developed. And in the phase II, (2002-2006), based on the results of the phase I, FIVIMS for each country is being developed.

b) Mechanisms in place to disasters and to provide rehabilitation for people affected

The Government of Japan extends emergency assistance by dispatching the Japan Disaster Relief Teams and providing emergency relief commodities in kind to disaster-affected countries. In 2002 fiscal year, the Government of Japan dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief Team twice and provided emergency relief supplies 22 times. Japan also provides assistance in formulating rehabilitation plan, and technical and financial cooperation for reconstruction of basic infrastructures.

Japan and Thailand have proposed an international stockpile scheme in WTO Negotiations on agriculture for basic foods for responding to temporal and large-scale food shortage. In AMAF (ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry) ASEAN + 3 Meeting in October 2002, an agreement was reached for a pilot project for the formation of the “East Asian Rice Stockpile System.”

In Japan, on the other hand, a new system for food aid was set up on the occasion of providing 700,000 tons of rice to Indonesia during its economic crisis in 1998. Thereafter the government became able to loan out government holding rice, and this system enabled the government to respond to the large scale needs for food appropriately and quickly which had not been possible to cope with before.

c) Measures taken to link post-emergency relief operations to development programmes

In addition to providing emergency and recovery assistance to developing countries, Japan also has been implementing projects to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters. The projects to be implemented are decided through consultations on new projects.

d) Watershed management strategies put in place

Japan has been conducting studies on water basins with a view to ensuring sustainable watershed management in developing countries by making master plans for each of river basins, conducting feasibility studies for facility construction such as multipurpose dams, and by other means for watershed management. Japan has also been sending experts to concerned government agencies to provide consultations and technical assistance.

In addition, Japan provides funds, either as grant or loan, for the construction of infrastructure identified as a priority by such feasibility studies.

COMMITMENT VI

Measures taken to promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fishery and forestry systems. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken by your country, as well as expected results from them.

***Advanced countries and International Organizations are requested to report, as appropriate, on measures taken.**

Japan considers that limited resources should be utilized as effectively as possible. From this standpoint, the Government of Japan implements ODA policies as is described below.

- a) Towards the fulfillment of the agreed Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7% of Gross National Product (TGNP), and to ensure that the flow of concessional funding is directed to economically and environmentally sustainable activities.**

The total ODA expenditure of Japan amounted to approximately \$9.28 billion in 2002, second highest in the world. However, due to the current economic and financial situations and expectations of Japanese people for the more effective use of ODA, the ODA expenditure in 2002 was reduced by 5.7 % from the previous year. Under these circumstances, in accordance with “Japan’s Official Development Assistance Charter” and in consultation with recipient countries, the Government of Japan has been making efforts to effectively allocate limited resources to projects with higher priorities.

One of the basic policies of Japan’s ODA is to encourage “self-help efforts of developing countries”. In selecting projects to be implemented, careful consideration is given whether those projects are economically and environmentally sustainable and financial and organizational structure is fit enough to deal with matters concerned even after the completion of those projects.

b) To focus ODA towards countries that have a real need for it, especially low-income countries.

In order to manage the ODA programs comprehensively and effectively, with unity and consistency, the Government of Japan has begun systematically to compile information on developing countries and developed “assistance implementation plans” for each country. From 1999 to January 2002, such plans have been completed for 10 developing countries. The Government of Japan intends to allocate ODA to the projects and countries with higher priorities by developing and revising those plans and thoroughly studying their effectiveness.

Japan, furthermore, believes that involvement of local NGOs at the grassroots level is effective especially in implementing assistance in LDCs, and provides assistance to improve their facilities and procure supplies (grassroots grant aid), which is a new approach in this field.

c) To intensify the search for practical and effective solutions to debt problems and support the initiatives to reduce the total external debt to Heavily-indebted Poor countries (HIPC)

In order to provide the debt relief to which Japan committed itself at the Cologne Summit in 1999 (the Enhanced HIPC Initiative), the Japanese Government has decided to forgive the debts of those countries by canceling the relevant ODA debts. In accordance with this commitment, Japan contributes to the Initiative by canceling the debts for the eligible countries such as Bolivia, Mauritania, Tanzania and Mali. The LDC preferential goods (about 1,200 items) are dispensed on a tax-free basis without limitation.

COMMITMENT VII

Steps taken to facilitate the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. Please indicate the progress made in establishing activities below:

With respect to implementation of the WFS Plan of Action, the World Food Summit: *five years later* declared to strengthen global coalition among governments, international organizations, private sectors and others concerned with the Plan.

As stated above, the Government of Japan intends to make contribution to the implementation of each Commitment of the WFS Plan of Action and to establishment of systems in developing countries needed for self-dependent development.

Japan also strives to encourage other donor countries, international organizations as well as developing countries themselves, through bilateral cooperation as well as international initiatives, to invest their resources in sustainable development for attaining food security.

a) Institutional arrangements at national and local levels to implement the Plan of Action and monitoring the progress of implementation.

In selecting and implementing Japan's assistance programs, the Government of Japan consults with the national and the local governments as well as other related organizations, respecting their ownership. Especially in order to ensure effectiveness of assistance and sustainability by developing country's own agencies after completion of each project, Japan thoroughly studies financial and administrative structures of recipient countries and makes efforts to strengthen them throughout the project period.

Especially at local level, Japan has improved systems for better cooperation with various organizations including NGOs.

b) Food for All campaigns to mobilize stakeholders and their resources at all

levels of society in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action.

Japan holds symposia and other events around the World Food Day. These gatherings are intended to enlighten the Japanese public as to the current situation of world food supply and agriculture, with emphasis on situations in developing countries and on the related international efforts.

In 1997, Japan FAO Association set up the “FAO Hunger Eradication Grassroots Fund”, and the Fund is receiving contributions from a wide segment of the general public. From 1997 to 2000, the Association collected a total of ¥155 million (\$1.4 million). The raised fund is used for a numerous micro-projects in Asia-Pacific Region.

c) Mechanisms to ensure food security for every person in the country.

As described above, “Japan’s Official Development Assistance Charter”, Japan’s basic policy on assistance, holds “poverty reduction” as one of the most important issues and in providing assistance to developing countries in enhancing their food security, focus is placed on the poor and the socially vulnerable.

***Developed countries and International Organizations may report on steps taken in actions described below.**

a) Direct development assistance policies and resources towards sustainable development including agriculture for food security, and effectively contribute to the improved situation of food insecure households.

As described above, Japan conducts careful study, prior to providing assistance, on priority of each aid program, implementation structure and sustainability in recipient countries with a view to ensuring sustainable development including projects related to agriculture.

For the development of Africa, Japan has been promoting the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, an initiative to call for the ownership of Africa and the partnership of the international community for sustainable development in Africa. In the TICAD process, agricultural development has been regarded as a key issue for alleviating the food insecurity in Africa and achieving economic growth.

Furthermore, Japan contributes to the promotion of international initiatives on food security such as the 25th FAO Asia-Pacific Conference & NGO/CSO Conference (2000) for the purpose of promoting cooperation on food security in Asia-Pacific Region. Japan also hosted the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan (2002) to consolidate efforts of international community in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and hosted the 3rd Water Forum (2003).

b) Focus technical assistance more effectively on building-up and mobilizing national capacity, expertise and local institutions.

As described above, Japan regards independence and ownership of recipient countries as an indispensable condition of its ODA programs and strives to ensure its beneficiaries' self-development after completion of each program. Therefore, where possible, "ODA taskforce on site", composed of recipient government officials and experts, is organized to monitor the development of the project for the purpose of ensuring its appropriate implementation.

As stated above, the Government of Japan has introduced a scheme which enables NGOs working locally at the grassroots level to receive support in utilizing their experience, technologies and know-how for implementation of a variety of projects.