

# **FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION**

## **National Report**

**1. Country:** Japan

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**3. Institution or committee responsible for reporting:**

- 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

**4. Contact person:**

- 1) Jun Fukuda: Economic Security Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
tel: +81-3-5501-8339, fax: +81-3-5501-8337  
e-mail: [jun.fukuda@mofa.go.jp](mailto:jun.fukuda@mofa.go.jp)
- 2) Minoru Miyasaka: International Cooperation Division, International Affairs Department, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
tel: +81-3-3501-4112, fax: +81-3-3502-8083  
e-mail: [minoru\\_miyasaka@nm.maff.go.jp](mailto:minoru_miyasaka@nm.maff.go.jp)

## **Section I: Priority Food Security Issues and Progress Towards the World Food Summit Goal**

**The state of the country's food security situation, in terms of food availability, stability of supplies and access to food and the progress in reaching the hunger reduction targets are described below.**

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 area 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 2004), 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 higher 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, in the world's largest net food importing country, 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 Plan on Food, Agriculture, and Rural Areas, which was decided in the Cabinet in 2005, targets an increase in food self-sufficiency up to 45% by the year 2015.

Japan is also determined to promote the export of food and agricultural products.

**Evaluation studies (such as impact assessment, comparison between results and objectives) of programmes or projects related to the WFS Plan of Action are attached to this report and listed below:**

(N/A)

**Information on external assistance programmes, including a description of their impact on hunger reduction and lessons learned, is given below :**

### **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 2004 was approximately US\$ 8.5 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 with 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 2004 is the second largest in the world with US\$ 73.9 million 19.61084% of the total assessments. In addition, Japan provides assistance through extra budgetary funding to support various Trust Fund Programs: US\$ 14 million in 2004. Japan also plans to continue assistance for the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) and the Special Program for Food Security (SPFS). A part of Japan's Grant Aid for Increase of Food Production (re-named as the Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers) is provided through FAO.

Japan also provides assistance for victims of conflicts and natural disasters through

WFP and its contribution to the organization is the third largest in the world with US\$ 135.7 million in 2004. Furthermore, more than US\$ 45.6 million of Japan's Food Aid to developing countries was provided through WFP in 2004 JPFY.

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**

The Trust Fund for Human Security was established in the United Nations Secretariat in 1999 with an initial contribution from the Government of Japan of 500 million yen. Until now, total contributions have amounted to some 29 billion yen or US\$ 256million. In the fields of agriculture and fisheries, Japan and the UN have approved to extend some US\$ 15.2 million from the fund through FAO to countries such as East Timor, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Brundi and Tanzania.

#### **5. Collaboration with NGOs and promotion of their activities**

The government of Japan collaborates with Japanese NGOs and local NGOs in recipient countries for promoting grass-root development activities that directly benefit the local communities.

The government of Japan provides the following financial aids for Japanese NGO's assistance activities in developing countries: 1) "NGO Project Subsidy" : 110 million

yen (US\$ 1.0 million) in 2005, 2) “Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO projects” to provide assistance in such areas as the improvement of facilities related to their activities: 2.85 billion yen (US\$ 26.6 million) in 2005, and 3) “JICA Partnership Program” for projects commissioned to provide technical cooperation: 1.94 billion yen (US\$ 18.1 million) in 2005.

In addition, the Japan FAO Association, the FAO Liaison Office in Japan and the Japan Agricultural Cooperative Group play a principal role in the “FAO TeleFood fund-raising.” 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 this request, the government of Japan has started posting the evaluation results on the web-site in addition to the publication of the reports.

## **SECTION II: Follow up of the WFS Plan of Action**

**This section describes the action taken under all of the seven Commitments adopted at the World Food Summit. Information is included on policies pursued and/or action programmes implemented, demonstrating, where possible, their impact in terms of contributing to overall social and economic development, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction.**

### **COMMITMENT I**

**We will ensure an enabling political, social and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.**

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 b) “prevention of conflict and creation of a peaceful environment”.

With respect to c) “enhancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment”, which relates to agricultural and rural development and alleviation of poverty 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 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.

- Support for Legal and Judicial Systems (Vietnam, Cambodia, etc)
- Support for Administrative Systems (East Timor, Kyrgystan, etc)
- Support for Police Systems (Indonesia, Iraq, etc)
- Support for Democratic Elections (Palestine, Congo Democratic Republic of Formerly Zaire, etc)

**b) 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. 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)

### **c) 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 announced the "Initiative on Gender and Development" in March 2005. The initiative stipulates Japan's policies in this field to integrate gender perspective into every phase of Japan's ODA implementation. With respect to agriculture, forestry, fishery, and rural development, based on the recognition of women's role in rural development as well as the different purpose for which men and women engage in agricultural production needs, Japan will support: establishment of facilities and extension of cultivation technology that contributes to reducing agricultural workload of women; dissemination of technology to raise women's incomes such as livestock husbandry and cultivation; participation of women in food-processing industry; strengthening women's producer associations and their management; training for the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizer.

Further, Japan provides funds for education for girls through United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (1993-) and fund for empowerment of women, gender equality through United Nations Development Fund for Women (1979-).

## **COMMITMENT II**

**We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.**

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 the promotion of employment and income generation including occupational training programs for the urban poor, and also provides funds for the establishment of facilities required for the implementation of such programs.

Examples: technical assistance in human resources development and occupational training

- Establishment of “Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Capacity-building of Human Resources” and assistance for various UNESCO programmes directed to capacity building of human resources (2005: funding of about 4.5 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)
- Manner District Rehabilitation and Reconstruction through Community Approach Project in Sri Lanka (2004-2008: Technical Cooperation)
- Irrigation and Rice Cultivation Project in Manatuto in Timor Leste (2005-2008: 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.**

On the occasion of G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, Japan announced the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative (IDI) for enhancing its assistance to control infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Based on this commitment, Japan contributed

over US \$ 4.1billion in this field between FY2000-2003.

In June 2005, with the completion of IDI, Japan announced the “Health and Development Initiative” (HDI) to contribute to achieving health-related MDGs, which provides comprehensive support in the health sector with the amount of US \$ 5 billion over the next five years. Examples:

- HIV/AIDS Regional Coordination Center Project, Thailand (2005-2008)
- Integrated Interventions to Strengthen Health System, Viet Nam (1995- )

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

Japan assists developing countries in a variety of projects for the development of primary health care system and their widespread use from the perspective of the 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**

**We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry**

**and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.**

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, the Government of Japan believes that it is important for developing countries to raise agricultural productivity in order to attain secured food supply. On the basis of this idea, the Government of Japan assists various programs in the areas 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 the improvement in productivity and diversification, the Government of Japan provides various mid-term and long-term assistances. Focusing on the activities for the poor in rural areas, the Japanese Government provides assistance, 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 assistances for programs to promote animal husbandry, chicken farming and fish-farming with a view to contributing to direct improvement in nourishment and income of farm households.

Japan has been promoting development and dissemination of New Rice for Africa (NERICA) through financial contribution to the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) and UNDP. Furthermore, Japan has been engaged with technical cooperation through dispatch of researchers and experts to a number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and WARDA.

**b) Actions taken to combat environmental threats against food security, especially, i) drought and desertification, ii) pests and animal health and iii) erosion of biodiversity**

Japan provides a variety of assistances, 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 “International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994,” and 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 raise capacities and build systems for the prevention of desertification in Africa (Republic of Mali, Burkina Faso) and China.

With respect to the use of pesticides regarding ii) “Pest and disease,” the Government of

Japan has taken a position, 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, an investigation of the early warning system and possible alternative measures to the spraying.. 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. Since 2005, Japan has started the 5-year collaborative research with Thailand's research institute on highly pathogenic Avian influenza in south-east Asia, and provided equipments to set up the research center in Thailand.

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

### **c) Transfer and use of agricultural technologies**

Japan carries out various projects for the transfer of agricultural technologies.

Among them, "Technical Cooperation Project" is a combination of dispatch of experts, acceptance of trainees, and provision of equipment provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In FY2004, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) dispatched total 564 experts to developing countries and accepted 1,130 trainees from developing countries in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

In March 2005, the Government of Japan announced the "Basic Plan for Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries Research” which defined R&D activities to solve international food/environment issues as one of the priority targets to be addressed in the next decade. The Plan also states that collaborative research with CGIAR centers and exchange of researchers with foreign research institutes are to be reinforced.

The Government of Japan also focuses on the “South-South” cooperation as a mechanism to transfer experience and technologies from Asian countries to African countries.

#### **d) Formulation and implementation of integrated rural development**

Development of rural area, with 70% of the poor people, could contribute to both the increase of agricultural production and poverty reduction. Japan has been assisting integrated and comprehensive agricultural and rural development, not limited to the expansion of agricultural production. Japan has been providing various assistances in flexible manners, taking into account of the condition and potential of each area. Such assistance projects may include, for example, the establishment of farming system, 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.

### **COMMITMENT IV**

**We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.**

Japan provides following assistance in policies or initiatives of developing countries, taking into account of the development of WTO agricultural negotiations.

**a) Promote financial and technical assistance to improve agricultural productivity and infrastructure of developing countries in order to optimize opportunities arising from the international trade framework**

In implementing ODA projects in agriculture and rural development, Japan takes into account of natural, social and economic conditions of the recipient countries and adopts suitable crop varieties and farming techniques for each area.

Japan also recognizes that opinions of developing countries with different conditions should be properly reflected in WTO agricultural negotiations through the participation of those countries. Since 1999 Japan has been providing a trust fund to provide assistance to developing countries for their participation in WTO negotiations. In addition, the Government of Japan offers training programs on WTO negotiations to the concerned staff of ASEAN countries, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO),

**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 grants 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 provided as much as 10,440 million yen to the Least-Developed Countries and Net Food Importing Developing Countries (LDCs and NFIDCs) as food assistance in FY2004. Further, Japan provided as much as 4,421 million yen to those countries as technical assistance in agriculture and rural area development in FY2004.

Japan announced a comprehensive “development initiative” on the occasion of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005, with a view to promoting the empowerment of developing countries through the Doha Round and helping them reap the benefits of the multilateral trading system. This initiative includes a package of extensive development assistance measures, including those for the improvement of agricultural productivity and for the export promotion of agricultural products, as well as duty-free and quota-free market access for essentially all products originating from all LDCs.

#### **COMMITMENT V**

**We will endeavor to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.**

The government of Japan announced its "Initiative for Disaster Reduction through ODA" at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which was held in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan in January 2005. This Initiative illustrates Japan's basic policies concerning international cooperation on disaster reduction through ODA. It emphasizes the importance of self-help efforts of developing countries and proposes comprehensive and coherent cooperation corresponding to each phase of disaster with an emphasis on disaster prevention.

With respect to the 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 FAO Trust Fund project, Japan assists the development of the Asian Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS). During the phase I of the project (1997-2001), indexing data system was developed. Based on the results of the phase I, the FIVIMS for each country will be developed in the phase II of the project (2003-2008).

**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 FY 2004, the Government of Japan dispatched the Japan Disaster Relief Team 15 times and provided emergency relief supplies 29 times, such as the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Japan also provides assistance in formulating rehabilitation plan, and technical and financial cooperation for reconstruction of basic infrastructures.

The “East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve” is a project to ensure food security in East Asia where large-scale natural disasters often occurs. Its pilot project has been implemented since 2004 to 2006, as agreed in AMAF (ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry) ASEAN + 3 (Japan, China, Korea) Meeting in October 2002

A new system for food aid was set up in Japan, on the occasion of the economic crisis in 1998 when Japan provided 700,000 tons of rice to Indonesia. With the introduction of the new system, the Government of Japan was authorized to loan government’ rice reserve to foreign countries. This system enabled quick response to large scale needs for food assistance.

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

In addition to providing emergency and recovery assistance to developing countries, Japan has also 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 developing master plans for each of river basins or conducting feasibility studies for facility construction such as multipurpose dams. Japan has also been sending experts to concerned government agencies to provide consultations and technical assistance in this area.

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

**COMMITMENT VI**

**We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development , in high and low potential areas.**

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 amounts to approximately \$9.00 billion in 2004, 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 from the previous year. Under these circumstances, in accordance with the “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 choosing 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. These plans have been completed for 19 developing countries by 2005. 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 believes that involvement of local NGOs at the grassroots level is effective especially in implementing assistance in LDCs. As a new approach, Japan provides

assistance to NGOs' activities to improve their facilities and procure supplies (grassroots grant aid).

**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) and the Okinawa Summit in 2000, the Japanese Government has decided to forgive the debts of those countries by canceling the relevant ODA debts and eligible commercial debts. In accordance with this commitment, Japan has contributed to the Initiative so far, by canceling the debts for the 14 eligible countries such as Bolivia, Ghana and Zambia, which amounts to about 3.1 billion dollars in total as of January 2006.

## **COMMITMENT VII**

**We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.**

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

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

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.

**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, while 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 been developing 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 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 2004, the Association has contributed a total of 2,1 million US dollars to FAO. Japan's contribution from such activities would be approximately 14% in the similar activities in the world. Those raised funds are 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, the “Japan’s Official Development Assistance Charter,” Japan’s basic policy on assistance, defines “poverty reduction” as one of the most important issues. Japan focus on the poor and socially vulnerable people when providing assistance to developing countries for food security.