

Resolution Calling for the Sustained Promotion of Official Development Assistance

July 27, 2011

Special Committee on Official Development Assistance
and Related Matters
House of Councillors, Japan

The Special Committee on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters of the House of Councillors of Japan:

Recognizing that, despite severe economic and fiscal conditions, Japan is striving to promote strategic, effective, and efficient official development assistance (ODA) toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other targets;

Affirming the significant role of ODA based on the understanding and support of the Japanese people in light of interviews with ODA survey missions dispatched by the House of Councillors, surveys conducted at the Komagane Training Center and Chubu International Center of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), interviews with personnel at the Engineering and Consulting Firms Association, Japan, and other investigations;

Recognizing, in light of the above investigations, the urgent importance of training and utilizing aid-related human resources which would lead to the invigoration of Japanese society, and improving measures relating to the utilization of ODA in Japan's growth strategy;

And noting the support received from developing countries and regions at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake;

RESOLVES that the government should make efforts toward the sustained promotion of strategic and selected forms of ODA and in particular adopt appropriate measures relating to the following:

- (1) The government should endeavor to strengthen assistance in the fields of health and education toward achievement of the MDGs and steadily implement its international pledges relating to ODA, such as the doubling of ODA to Africa announced at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV).

- (2) Regarding the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program, the government should endeavor to further enhance the effects of the program through, among other things, the expansion of education and training and assistance to volunteer participants. To support the career formation of volunteer participants and promote the utilization of their experience and skills, specific measures should be quickly taken, such as the expansion of job support by the public and private sectors, the selection of destinations and fields that would lead to business startups or the return to their current jobs of volunteer participants following their return to Japan, and strengthening of the alumni network of former JOCVs.
- (3) In order to promote the utilization of ODA in Japan's growth strategy, while paying attention to the prevention of corruption related to ODA projects, the strengthening of compliance, and the establishment and improvement of the work condition of development consultants and other ODA-related businesses, the government should endeavor to speedily enhance such specific measures as promoting collaboration between the public and private sectors; promoting assistance in response to the actual situation in partner countries, such as the building of economic and social infrastructure and the supply of technical cooperation in Southeast Asian countries and elsewhere; utilizing regional business foundations and technologies around Japan, including those of local and small and medium-sized companies, in trainee acceptance projects and projects strengthening partnerships with private corporations and private business; accelerating ODA project implementation; adopting methods to select businesses that can contribute to ensuring the quality of ODA projects; ensuring tax-exemption measures relating to ODA project implementation by partner countries; and ensuring the safety of ODA-related personnel.