

## **Resolution Calling for Effective Implementation and Promotion of Official Development Assistance on the Occasion of Hosting the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)**

May 22, 2013

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

Despite having to cope with severe economic and financial conditions, and continue the process of reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan strives to promote official development assistance (ODA) designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to provide sustainable growth.

The Special Committee of the House of Councillors on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters reaffirmed the need to effectively promote ODA, which is one of Japan's most important diplomatic tools, based on the results of surveys conducted at the Nihonmatsu Training Center of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and areas struck by the Great East Japan Earthquake, as well as on opinions from experts at this committee and other investigations.

During 2013, Japan will not only mark the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Dialogue relations, and it will also host the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in Yokohama in June. TICAD V is a milestone event to celebrate the 20th year of the commencement of the TICAD process. TICAD V is expected to serve as an opportunity for the international community to take stock of the assistance that has been provided to Africa thus far, identify problems that have yet to be addressed, clearly ascertain emerging challenges, and determine aid strategies and policies that will enhance effectiveness, with the goal of continuing effective support of the autonomous and independent initiatives of African countries.

On the occasion of hosting the TICAD V, the Japanese government resolves to take appropriate measures, particularly relating to the following, in order to promote strategic, efficient and effective ODA, while striving to secure a budget taking into account international trends.

The Japanese government should:

- Provide high-quality assistance involving people-to-people exchange and technological transfer by taking advantage of Japan's own strengths, and strive to ensure sustained promotion of ODA that demonstrates Japan's unique contribution based on the understanding and support of the Japanese people and in a manner that serves the national interest and growth of Japan in conjunction with our country's diplomatic and growth strategies.
- Strive to play a leading role in promoting discussions on establishing international development goals beyond 2015 (Post-2015 Development Agenda).
- Strengthen cooperation with NGOs, private companies, local governments and various other assistance providers, and promote coordination between yen loans/public financing and grant aid/technological cooperation, as well as public-private collaboration. In addition, enhance support projects in areas such as information communications technology, policy planning, development of institutions, and cultural renaissance, as well as promotion of cultural activities.
- Help recipient countries fulfill their self-imposed economic and social development targets and related needs, by taking an integrated approach through active participation in aid coordination with other donor countries and international organizations. In this process, ensure global recognition of Japan's basic ODA policy intended to encourage the recipient country to achieve independent development through not only financial contributions but also strengthened personnel and technical contributions.
- Give top priority to peace and stabilization of people's lives based on the principle of human security, strive to reduce poverty and eradicate hunger, promote sustainable economic and social development, eliminate social unrest and disparity through fair and equitable distribution, develop human resources capable of taking the lead in nation building in various fields, reinforce measures for prevention and mitigation of disasters, and develop social infrastructure. In that process, enhance the quality of assistance while selecting and focusing on priority projects.
- Make effective use of ODA in a manner that will not only support sustained development of African and other developing countries, but also contribute to Japan's own growth by such means as encouraging exports of infrastructure and related systems and helping private companies, including medium and small enterprises, make inroads into developing nations.
- Further ensure the transparency of ODA projects both in Japan and overseas, and provide public accountability regarding the projects' objectives, content, effects and

possible impact on the environment and local communities, at a higher level. In addition, in light of the important role played by civil society, including NGOs, in implementing ODA, further reinforce coordination and collaboration with civil society in addition to the respective national governments and international organizations in terms of, among other things, the follow-up mechanism of TICAD V in the future.

- Develop global human resources who engage in development assistance activities and further expand opportunities to demonstrate their abilities, by augmenting public-private collaborative volunteer systems in the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program and the Senior Overseas Volunteers program, by strengthening measures to increase the number of applicants for volunteer programs, and by improving measures to support JOCVs in developing their careers and finding jobs after returning to Japan. In addition, further strengthen Japan's personnel contribution by means such as increasing the number of Japanese executives and staff members working for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and other international organizations.
- In view of the fact that the great majority of people in African countries in general and sub-Saharan nations in particular, make their living from agriculture, place the focus of assistance on the initiatives intended to stabilize and increase farmers' incomes and improve food self-sufficiency in the region. This should include projects for improving agricultural technologies and productivity, promoting irrigation farming and its effective utilization, cultivating agricultural experts and instructors, and developing distribution and logistics infrastructures and markets for farming products. In that process, strengthen coordination between measures for providing technical support to increase rice production, encouraging science and mathematics education, and establishing health systems.
- Reinforce the on-site aid system and make it multi-layered, to help provide assistance to Africa in a more effective manner. In that process, nurture NGOs in Japan and support these organizations in expanding operations into Africa, while strengthening staffing at the Japanese embassies and JICA offices.