

Response from the Government of Japan to the information request
by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

The Japanese Government has the pleasure to provide the following information to assist in the preparation of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee's report on the role of technical cooperation and capacity-building assistance in fostering mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights.

1. Japan's technical cooperation and capacity-building assistance on human rights

Japan has been implementing technical cooperation and capacity-building assistance on human rights as part of the cooperation projects by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) for developing countries all over the world, especially in South and South East Asia. These projects can be divided into four cooperation sectors: Legal and Judicial sector; Election sector; Police sector; and Media Sector.

2. Cooperation projects of JICA

(1) Legal and Judicial sector

- Drafting and dissemination of civil law and other laws and regulations for ensuring equitable rights guarantee and the right to dispose property in the trading society;
- Support for the development of guidelines on legal procedure, improvement of the incident management system, strengthening of the lawyers' status and capacity, and legal aid building for poor residents or people in depopulated areas to be able to use appropriate legal procedures;
- Ensuring the citizens' rights to a fair trial through support for setting up a call center to receive counselling concerning legal disputes.
- Clarification of national liability through drafting the State Redress Act, support for making appropriate criminal proceedings through training for prosecutors, and support for establishment of a special

court on juveniles;

- Protection of family system through advice to the development of the Domestic Violence Prevention Law or the International Adoption Law etc.;
- Protection of the right to enjoy health through drafting the Food Safety Law or the Air Pollution Control Law etc.;

(2) Election sector

- Ensuring the people's rights to participate in the politics by supporting the implementation of free, equal, universal and secret voting elections through strengthening the capacity of staff of the Board of Election;

(3) Police sector

- Contributing to the appropriate criminal proceedings through capacity-building on criminal prevention, control and investigation;

(4) Media sector

- Contributing to public's right to know by ensuring circulation of accurate, neutral and fair information through strengthening the capacity of public media.

3. Japan's perspective on the resolution

Japan reiterates its concern on the resolution 37/23 of the Human Rights Council, as mentioned in its explanation of vote in the 37th session of the Council in March 2018.

Japan is of the opinion that a couple of terms used in this resolution such as "building a community of shared future for human beings" or "Mutually Beneficial Cooperation" are not widely recognized in the field of Human Rights.

And Japan also believes that because the concept and subject of terms such as "building a community of shared future for human beings"

or “mutually beneficial cooperation” are unclear, to use them in isolation from the established basic principles of human rights would not be suitable for Human Rights Council resolution. Japan also reiterates its position that the individual is the central subject of human rights.

Japan would like the Advisory Committee to duly take these points into account in completing its study requested by the said resolution.