

**Statement of the Government of JAPAN
at the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education
and Mine Action Technologies,
22nd June, 2004, Geneva**

**Mr. Co-Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen**

I General point of view

1. As mentioned in the new Japanese ODA Charter revised last year, Japan attaches importance to “Human Security” in our ODA policy. In addition to that, “Peace Building” is one of the prioritized areas to assist according to the ODA Charter and “Mine Clearance” is explicitly mentioned as an example of projects we would like to promote and assist.

Promoting “Human Security” is such an initiative that we would like to focus on each individual who is an irreplaceable component of each State while focus has been made traditionally on State in terms of security, and it should be noted that “Human Security” is humanitarian and developmental concept in its nature rather than political concept. “Protection of people” and “Empowerment of people” are pivotal concepts underlying “Human Security”.

When the Gov. of Japan decides to assist and fund a given project proposal, we deploy the case-by-case approach considering effectiveness and cost efficiency of the proposal. However, it should be noted that as a result of our ODA policy in which we attach importance to “Human Security”, we explore during the course of examining the proposal from the viewpoint that how the given proposal will facilitate “protection of people” and “empowerment of people” in the ground.

- 2. In order to implement our foreign policy just mentioned, the Gov. of Japan has actively supported many mine actions through UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF). The Gov. of Japan remitted approximately 4100,000 USD to the UN VTF in February and is now considering to contribute approximately 5100,000 by the end of Japanese Fiscal Year 2004. The total amount of our contribution to the UN VTF is approximately 23.7 million USD as of today and we have honor to be the second biggest donor to the VTF.**
- 3. In addition to that, the Gov. of Japan has also actively supported many mine actions operated by International NGOs as well as Local NGOs. From 1998 to 2003, the Gov. of Japan has funded 60 projects by NGOs and total amount of these supports is approximately 2.1 billion Japanese yen, which is almost equivalent to 19.4 million USD.**

Mr. Co-Chairman,

II Update of Japanese assistance

1. Assistance to Mine Clearance

(a) Afghanistan Ogata Initiative Phase 4

The Gov. of Japan has committed itself to the assistance to the Comprehensive Area Development in Afghanistan through UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNMAS, ICRC and other organization since February 2002. In the course of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this initiative, we funded 8.7 million USD to Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education, and Victim Assistance. On 19 March, Japan decided to assist Phase 4 of this initiative and contribute approximately 8.7 million USD through UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDP. This time we will support many projects such as improvement of conditions of drinking water and irrigation channels for agriculture, renovation of roads, job training and training teachers, DDR of child soldiers, and before these operations run, demining of the targeted area of these operations will be conducted.

(b) Cambodia (approximately 1,138,000USD)

Assistance to CMAC's mine action activities; 520,000USD

The Project for Supporting Humanitarian Mine Clearance in Northwestern Cambodia Phase III; approximately 618,000USD

(c) Sri Lanka (approximately 1,357,000USD)

Demining Project in the Northern District of Sri Lanka; approximately 751,000USD

The Project for Strengthen Clearance Operation with Additional Manual and Mechanical Assets in Vavuniya / Mannar; approximately 606,000USD

(d) Tajikistan (approximately 252,000 USD)

The Project for Supply of Equipment for Mine Action for Tajikistan; approximately 252,000USD

(e) Mozambique (approximately 82,000USD)

The Project for Zambezia Province Humanitarian Demining; approximately 82,000USD

(f) Sudan (approximately 674,000 USD)

The Project for Nuba Mountains Emergency Land Mine Action Response (SPLM area); approximately 674,000 USD

(g) Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica (17,000USD)

Contribution to support OAS's Assistance Program for Demining Program in Central America; 17,000USD

2. Assistance to Mine Action Technology

In Japan, in order to enhance effectiveness and safety of mine clearance, research and development of demining devices and mine detectors are conducted by private

companies and the Government has encouraged, supported or conducted the development of the devices and detectors.

So far Japanese private companies have developed Integrated Mine Detector (Potable AP Landmine Detector), Mine Clearance Vehicle, and Mine Detection Vehicle.

In addition to these devices, we are actively conducting research and development of further Mine Action Technologies such as

- (a) sensing technology so as to detect AP landmine in safe, secured and efficient manner(e.g. new technology to distinguish landmine, in particular plastic landmine, which metal detector is almost unable to detect, from soils)
- (b) access and control technology so as to detect and clear landmine safely and efficiently by bringing sensor to mine fields

Now we are devoted to develop new devices integrated by these new technologies.

My delegation looks forward to updating and announcing the successful result of these ongoing research and development in the near future.

For further information, please see copies explaining our new devices with pictures which will be available outside of this room soon. Please also refer to “Mechanical Demining Equipment Catalogue 2004” published by GICHD in which some of Japanese new technologies are introduced (pp.120, 130 and 160).

3. Assistance to Mine Risk Education

In the course of the Ogata Initiative mentioned above, Japan funded Mine Risk Education project in Afghanistan and support operations such as distribution of illustrated books to children so that they will not be involved in mine accidents.

The Gov. of Japan also has been steadfast in supporting Mine Risk Education projects conducted by NGOs. Recently we funded Handicap International in Angola (81,000USD), General Chatichai Choonhavan Foundation in Thailand (approximately 26,000USD) through Grass-roots Human Security Grant Aid Fund.

In addition to these assistances to MRE in the fields, the Gov. of Japan also supports awareness raising and advocacy initiative taken by local government in Japan. Shin Asahi-chou of Shiga Prefecture will host “Ban landmines! International Children Conference” in August 2004 and the Gov of Japan will be one of the sponsors of this Conference. This Children Conference is aimed to invite children, mainly from mine affected countries, listen to their voices directly and discuss what we should do and what we can do from the viewpoints of children. My delegation would like to point out the importance of this kind of advocacy initiative.

Mr. Co-chairman,

III. Some additional comments

Before concluding this statement, my delegation would like to renew our willingness to offer our support and to share practical information about Japanese assistance in mine actions with those who wish to cooperate with us.

- (1) First, importance of ownership of mine affected countries. This is sought of pre-requisite of our support and without this our partnership to your operations can not work. Effectiveness and cost efficiency of the project are also important.**
- (2) Second, we are eager to see how people in ground will enjoy benefit from your project. As my delegation mentioned at the beginning of this statement, the Gov. of Japan attaches importance to “Human Security” and “protection of people” and “empowerment of people” are pivotal concepts underlying it. Therefore, the Gov. of Japan evaluates applications of projects for our assistance also in terms of these concepts. In this context, my delegation would like you to take note that it is difficult for Japan to shoulder necessary cost to organize seminars or workshops themselves. Also please note Japan cannot assist directly or indirectly any military operations.**
- (3) Third, the Gov. of Japan has various schemes for assisting mine actions. Today my delegation would like to mention that (a) the Gov. of Japan can extend its assistance through UN Human Security Trust Fund to the UN Agencies, (b) other agencies and organizations may benefit from the same scheme if they will conduct mine action jointly with UN Agency, (c) NGOs can get our assistance through Grass-roots Human Security Grant Aid, but total amount of this assistance should not exceed 10 million Japanese yen in usual cases. For the further information, please contact with Japanese Embassy of your country which has a lot of knowledge and experiences and will play significant role to decide whether or not Japan will fund certain projects. Needless to say, my delegation is glad to help you if you need assistance to initiate dialogue with our Embassy in your country.**

Thank you very much for your attention.