

Statement of Japan
Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration
Cooperation and Assistance in Providing for the Care, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of
Landmine Survivors

Since the First Review Conference, Japan has provided support, through bilateral assistance, international organizations and NGOs, to many of the countries that have reported the responsibility for significant number of mine victims. I will now present some recent examples of victim assistance projects supported by Japan.

In July 2007, Japan decided to extend aid to the “Kien Khleang Vocational Training Project for Landmine Survivors in Cambodia”, utilizing the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. The purpose of this project is to promote socio-economic reintegration of landmine survivors and persons with disabilities by assisting them in acquiring skill for their economic independence. In this project, along with training for vocational skills such as electronic device repairs and sewing, people with disabilities, including landmine survivors, take courses on literacy, mathematics, and foreign languages and the rights of children, women and the disabled in free of charge.

In November 2007, Japan decided to provide aid to mine action activities including victim assistance in Thailand, utilizing the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), which was established in cooperation with ASEAN to support ASEAN integration efforts. In this project, while undertaking a re-investigation to reduce suspected hazardous areas, Japan is also lending support to the Thai Government in the development of its victim assistance policy by gathering data related to landmine victims.

In March 2008, Japan extended assistance to the University Hospital of Santander in Colombia to construct an orthotics and prosthetics centre for landmine survivors in Colombia, utilizing the Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects, which was established to finance the activities of NGOs, medical institutions and public schools. One third of Colombia’s landmine victims are in the country’s northeast, and the University Hospital of

Santander receives of majority of them. In this project, funds are being provided for the construction of the centre and the purchase of material to manufacture orthotics and prosthetics for mine survivors.

At the First Review Conference in 2004, Japan positioned human security as one of its three principles for mine action. Since then, Japan has been actively promoting support in the area of victim assistance based on the “protection of people” and the “empowerment of people”, which are pivotal concepts underlining human security.

Finally, last September Japan signed the “Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, and is currently carrying out the necessary studies to facilitate its earliest possible ratification.