

# Revisiting Human Security

# in Today's Context



## JICA's Commitment to Achieve Human Security around the World

— KITAOKA Shinichi

**Profile:**

Dr. KITAOKA Shinichi is President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Before assuming the present post, he was President of the International University of Japan (2012-2015). His career includes Professor of Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo (1997-2004, 2006-2012) and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (2004-2006). His specialty is modern Japanese politics and diplomacy. He obtained his B.A. (1971) and his Ph.D. (1976) both from the University of Tokyo. He is Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo and Rikkyo University.

### Our Commitment to Human Security

Since the late 1990s, the Government of Japan has made Human Security one of its foreign policy pillars. When Madame OGATA Sadako became JICA's President in 2003, JICA adopted Human Security as its guiding principle. Ever since then, Human Security has remained at the heart of our operations and is now one of our agency's core missions.

More recently, when we updated our approach to this concept in 2019, we revisited the core principles of Human Security. The heart of this concept is that all individuals are entitled to freedom from fear, freedom from want, and the freedom to live in dignity, and that the global community and each country must prioritize building a world that secures these essential freedoms. Toward that goal, we identified how to better realize Human Security and summarized this approach into a document titled, "Revisiting Human Security in Today's Global Context."

### Achieving Human Security

JICA's approach toward cooperation is rooted in our engagements with partner countries as equals that share mutual respect. In promoting Human Security, JICA emphasizes the need to empower individuals, organizations, and societies through human resource development and institution building, while respecting local ownership and self-reliance.

In our efforts to advance institution building, JICA has focused on building resilient societies that can protect themselves against various threats. We aim to build social systems that are better prepared to prevent

and mitigate the impacts of downside risks to sustainable development, including violent conflict, natural disasters, and pandemics.

This approach is exemplified in our work to bring peace and development to Mindanao. This region of the Philippines has suffered from decades of conflict and is working to overcome a complicated history to establish a peaceful society. JICA began its cooperation in Mindanao long before the 2014 peace agreement, and we remain committed to the capacity building of the transitional autonomous government and for the socioeconomic development of local communities to attain self-reliance. Working together with local authorities and communities, we hope Mindanao will strengthen the resilience of its social systems to achieve sustainable peace and development that realizes Human Security for all.

### Looking Ahead

Amid the COVID-19 crisis, JICA remains steadfast in its mission to achieve Human Security for all. To do this, we will promote a holistic approach that protects the life and health of every individual through a combination of prevention, precaution, and treatment.

JICA will also continue to strengthen our efforts to identify various threats to Human Security and address these challenges. We will continue to promote human resource development and institution building, while also encouraging innovation and partnerships, to build resilient social systems that ensure the rights of all individuals to "live free from fear and want, and in dignity."

## Bangsamoro: Making Peace and Human Security Work

— Ahod Al HAJ Murad Ebrahim

**Profile:**

Born in 1949, he is a key figure in the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where he currently serves as Interim Chief Minister. He has been involved in armed struggle since 1968, and has held prominent roles in diplomatic negotiations with the Government of the Philippines and the global Islamic organizations.



The ratification of the Republic Act 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) last January 25, 2019 marked an unprecedented milestone for the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (GPH-MILF) Peace Process.

The law establishing the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao aims to put an end to the decades-long conflict in Mindanao by providing a significant political settlement and adopting policies centered on human security.

The new political entity is currently under the administration of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority which holds both executive and legislative powers. I was appointed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to oversee the transition period, which will end in the middle of 2022.

I have emphasized the need to strengthen policies and programs that prioritize human security above anything else especially during a time when the world is grappling with the challenges brought upon it by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main goal of this transition period is to establish a bureaucracy that is responsive to the decades-long needs of our people, to create sustainable programs that highlight our experience, our people, and our desire for human security.

### Beyond the transition period

The Bangsamoro Government has installed various programs and policies through its various ministries to address the immediate needs of its constituency. However, the main thrust of the transition period is to put up priority codes that would enable the regular government to function in the new bureaucracy.

I believe that establishing a government that acknowledges

the importance of laws would be a step further towards realizing the importance of human security by implementing a key component of such, rule of law.

### Freedom from Fear, Freedom from Want

The present administration acknowledges that the creation of the new bureaucracy requires collective support from the ground. As of March 2020, right before the pandemic, around 12,000 MILF fighters were decommissioned and are now engaging in programs to become productive members of the society. I believe that this is the first step towards healing.

We hope that not only can we transition the regional government towards a more responsive system, but also help in transitioning the communities which suffered decades-long of armed conflict, into self-reliant and resilient communities in the Bangsamoro.

JICA has been one of our most trusted partners in our journey to peace starting from the peace talks up to this transition period. In order to realize self-reliant and resilient communities, we are especially keen on expanding JICA's Upland Rice-Based Farming Technology Program for the Bangsamoro (URTPB). We have received reports from the ground that URTPB has not only improved the farming skills of our farmer-combatants but has also greatly improved their income.

### Long journey ahead

While the three years of transition period may not be enough, what matters right now is the ability to see a brighter hope which the Bangsamoro holds on to – matched with policies that truly reflect their collective desire towards self-determination.