

# The Post-2015 Agenda and JICA's Role

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## A Shift Toward a Universal Agenda

JICA and other development-policy actors are currently being affected by two processes of fundamental change that are highly intertwined. Firstly, a new global development agenda is emerging that will replace the Millennium Development Goals. This agenda is set to differ significantly from the previous one, being universal in nature rather than primarily geared toward developing countries. As such, it will focus on development issues not only in countries such as Burundi and Bangladesh, but also in nations such as Japan, Germany, and Canada. In so doing, it will examine matters of environmental sustainability and other issues such as inequality (including in countries with high incomes). Consequently, the future global development agenda will have less of a traditional development-policy emphasis.

Secondly, the concept of official development assistance (ODA) is currently undergoing a process of reorientation. There are a number of reasons for this. On average, developing countries are becoming less reliant on ODA contributions. Over 50 countries have been removed from the recipient list in the last 40 years, due primarily to a process of graduation, whereby developing countries increased their GDP per capita and moved up into the next income group. Forecasts show that a further 28 countries could be taken off the list by 2030. Even the countries still on the list are making less frequent use of ODA as a source of financing. ODA flows account for just two percent or so of the international funding available for developing countries.

Dynamic middle-income countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Turkey, and Brazil are increasingly providing South-South cooperation services, not least in African nations. Additionally, where there was once a distinct boundary between developing countries as ODA recipients and prosperous industrialized nations as ODA donors, it is barely possible any longer to clearly divide the two. South Korea, which was once a major ODA recipient, has now practically switched roles completely, operating as an OECD donor country.

Ultimately, it is now less clear what goals are being pursued

with ODA than it was 15 or 20 years ago. While reducing poverty is certainly still a key challenge, it will become less of an issue in the long term given the significant progress being made in heavily populated developing countries in particular. At the same time, development cooperation actors are increasingly facing new global tasks in areas such as climate finance, global security, and international migration.

## Changing as Conditions Change

How can JICA pursue an effective policy in light of these changes?

JICA could and should assume a key role in establishing cooperation approaches that go beyond ODA and promote a comprehensive global development agenda. The post-2015 debate is the main focal point in this context. A future global agenda needs clear goals for international cooperation in order to promote the new development agenda. The agenda must not be based solely or primarily on ODA, but rather should be broader in scope. Likewise, the global agenda will not be able to work from a comparatively narrow concept of development from past development policy, but instead will need to shine a light on other universal issues such as inequality and, in particular, environmental sustainability.

In order to implement such an ambitious global development agenda, it will be necessary to establish an effective accountability mechanism for international commitments. There are a number of specific proposals as to how states can document their contributions to the provision of public goods and report these contribu-

tions internationally. For example, Japan would no longer report only on its ODA-related efforts, but also on its activities in other areas such as climate-change mitigation, security, and the promotion of measures to combat inequality. The issue would not always be whether developing countries were being supported in their efforts. Rather, based on this logic, Japan could report on all of its efforts to provide global public goods, regardless of whether developing countries were benefiting directly through contributions or not.



# TRENDS



## Protecting Textile Workers in Bangladesh



**B**angladesh is the second largest textile producer in the world. Textiles account for 80% of the nation's exports and employ 4 million people, over three-quarters of whom are women. Unsafe conditions at factories, however, are rampant. On April 4, 2013, Rana Plaza—a nine-story building on the outskirts of Dhaka housing several factories—collapsed, killing more than 1,100. Since this tragedy, the textile sector in Bangladesh has moved quickly to protect workers by improving safety measures and working conditions.

JICA has provided support to address this issue, combining existing projects to improve buildings' earthquake resistance with loans to small and medium-sized businesses. JICA has

Signs outside Rana Plaza, where 1,100 textile workers lost their lives when the nine-story building collapsed.

set up a program to provide long-term loans at low interest rates to textile manufacturers for the purpose of improving safety of factories and reinforcing buildings against earthquakes. JICA, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Bangladesh Bank, and two industrial bodies representing 5,000 companies signed a memorandum in October 2013 to mark the start of the program.

The program plans to start a pilot case that will involve 250 companies in the textile industry. According to an executive at an industrial body: "The Rana Plaza tragedy was a major turning point for those of us in the industry as well as our customers overseas. Our focus now is on improving safety." JICA, in cooperation with Bangladeshi organizations, will continue to help improve conditions at the country's textile factories.



## Enhanced Waste Management Amid Unrest in South Sudan



**A**fter South Sudan declared independence in July 2011, Juba, the country's capital and home to 300,000 residents, faced severe environmental degradation from unregulated landfills and other improper waste disposal triggered by rapid urbanization. Since October 2011, JICA has worked to improve sanitation in the city by strengthening the waste-management capabilities of local government organizations and the South Sudan Ministry of Environment.

JICA set up pilot projects in six areas in Juba to get shops and residents to dispose of refuse at set times and locations. Scattering of refuse, bad odors, vermin outbreaks, and other environmental issues at landfills were addressed by

Refuse is loaded onto a truck at a collection site in Juba, South Sudan.

regularly packing down and covering garbage with soil. These efforts were paired with moves to make waste facilities self-sufficient through the levying of garbage fees via the collection trucks.

In December 2013, fighting broke out between opposing political factions. This conflict, combined with chronic breakdowns of the trucks, has put the continuation of the program in doubt. Nevertheless, JICA remains committed to maintaining staff locally to support the project through its scheduled completion in October 2014.

To this end, in April 2014, the deputy mayor of Juba attended a meeting in Kampala, Uganda, that saw agreement to a pilot fee collection project, an action plan for the coming year to ensure funding, and approval of a medium- to long-term waste management plan.



## South-South Cooperation to Spread the Koban System



**I**n Japan, local police boxes, known as *koban*, have for generations worked hand-in-hand with local residents to protect the safety of communities. In Timor-Leste (East Timor), the *koban* system was first introduced in 2003, a year after the country declared independence from Indonesia. The idea of establishing a *koban* system in the country was first put forward by representatives from the Timor-Leste national police (PNTL) who had participated in a JICA-organized training program in Japan.

JICA began providing support to community policing efforts of the PNTL in 2008. As part of this effort, PNTL officers received training in Japan and Japanese police visited Timor-Leste to share their *koban* knowledge and experience.

Police officers serve their community at a newly established *koban* in Timor-Leste.

One special aspect of the project has been the involvement of Indonesia, which introduced the *koban* system with JICA's help in 2002. In November 2013, 30 PNTL officers visited police headquarters in Jakarta's Bekasi suburb, where they received instruction in how to manage a *koban* and in the roles of community-based police. Participating officers gained hands-on experience by joining patrols around local residences and schools.

Despite the historical friction between the two countries, Indonesia has been supportive of Timor-Leste's efforts to establish a *koban* system, even going so far as to provide the PNTL with copies of the national police's manual on community policing.

JICA will continue to bolster public safety through South-South and triangular cooperation.