

# • TRENDS •



## Japan

### Tanaka spoke about Japan's Proactive Contribution to Peace



**O**n July 27, JICA President Akihiko Tanaka spoke at the Brookings Institution, a Washington, DC think tank, about Japan's "Proactive Contribution to Peace" and its meaning in development cooperation. Brookings' David Dollar, a senior fellow within the John L. Thornton China Center, commented. Tanaka engaged with the audience on questions posed in a discussion moderated by Richard C. Bush III, the Director of the Center for East Asia Policy Studies at Brookings.

Tanaka introduced Prime Minister Abe's strategy of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," stressing that development cooperation has been and will continue to be important for contributing to peace proactively. He spoke of how JICA responsible for implementing Japanese Official Development Assistance, works to promote stability and

President Tanaka speaks at Brookings.

peace. He covered JICA support for reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq, peace building in South Sudan and post-earthquake assistance in Nepal, JICA's response to the Syrian refugee crisis and JICA's role in the Mindanao peace process. Based on JICA experience, he concluded that four main project types are best to secure lasting peace: projects that raise expectations for the future, provide benefits to all stakeholders, develop human resources and institutional capacities, and show a long-term vision and commitment to the people.

The Q&A portion of the discussion allowed Tanaka to elaborate on the importance of JICA extending soft loans to finance social sector projects, including support for Universal Health Coverage in Kenya, for contributing to peacebuilding through reducing social vulnerability. He also touched upon good practices of assisting fragile states and collaboration between JICA and related agencies in China.



## Uganda

### Survey and road improvements in Gulu, Northern Uganda



**A**JICA project for Improving Municipal Roads in Gulu, the commercial center of Northern Uganda, will improve roads and help economic revitalization. A survey recently completed in the grant aid project to improve 8.5 kilometers of main roads and repair drainage ditches in the city of 154,000 will help people to move and goods to flow, contributing to peacebuilding and economic growth. Construction will begin in September 2016.

Gulu, where peace was recently restored, is attracting people and goods, becoming a distribution center for South Sudan. The traffic on main roads doubled from 2012 to 2015. Roads are problematic, asphalt on shoulders gouged; cars, motorcycles and pedestrians are unable to pass safely. In the rainy season drainage ditches overflow; pass-

Because of unimproved sidewalk, pedestrians have to walk along a road by avoiding obstacles.

ing is difficult; sanitation is problematic. National highways are being built in all four directions.

The survey covered roads, traffic, topography and rainfall. Discussions with the city and Gulu District concerned street width and design including sidewalks and drainage ditches. Connections to national highways and assistance provided by other agencies were carefully considered. The survey revealed that nearly all intersections in Gulu have seen fatalities; accidents frequently occur. Eliminating potholes will increase speeds and accidents. Predicting car, motorcycle and pedestrian movement, and adopting a design encouraging safety is necessary. Solutions include roundabouts and slightly raised pedestrian crossings.

The Uganda and Gulu governments will begin preparations to ensure that project construction can begin smoothly, including relocating electric poles, checking and moving water pipes and adjusting other related projects.



## Malaysia

### JICA supports work system for persons with disabilities in Malaysia



**I**n August, JICA's 10-year project in Malaysia, "The Project to Support Participation of Persons with Disabilities," came to an end. The project provided support for a new system to boost the participation in society of persons with disabilities.

Specifically, the project focused on two aspects: one called "Support for Employment of Persons with Disabilities (helped by a Job Coach)," to create a working environment for employees with disabilities and support their retention in the workplace. The other is "Disability Equality Training (DET)," to promote hiring of persons with disabilities and deepen companies' understanding of persons with disabilities as clients.

The project started by fostering experts called job coaches who mediate problems to help per-

A job coach, left, instructs a staff member with intellectual disabilities at a Shell gas station.

sons with disabilities adjust to their workplace. The project also nurtured trainers who train job coaches. As a result, more than 650 persons with disabilities have found jobs. Some Low Cost Carriers are holding periodic DET to promote employment for people with disabilities and to improve services for customers with disabilities.

Malaysia has started passing on this know-how to other countries through JICA's projects and other initiatives, and now Malaysian job coach trainers are conducting programs in China and Jordan. Furthermore, some of the trainers of DET facilitators have established consulting firms and extended their field of activities to neighboring countries.

For the future, to be able to organize these activities on its own, Malaysia's Department of Social Welfare is taking the initiative in its preparations. JICA plans to continue its cooperation with Malaysian authorities as well as its fostered personnel in areas including projects in other countries.