

# · TRENDS ·



Japan

## JICA President Calls for Promoting Women's Participation in Peace Building



JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka addressed a group of politicians, business figures, and opinion leaders about the urgent need to develop policies that would allow women to take a more active role in peace-building efforts in areas stricken by disaster or conflict. He delivered the remarks as part of a high-level roundtable discussion at the third World Assembly for Women in Tokyo last December. The purpose of the two-day meeting was to give international attention to policies aimed at empowering women.

Akiko Yamanaka, Japan's Special Ambassador for World Tsunami Awareness Day, moderated the roundtable, which focused on the participation of women in peace-building and conflict-prevention activities. Other participants included Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Minister of Defense of the

JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka participating the discussion at the high-level roundtable

Netherlands, and Melanne Verwee, Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security.

Kitaoka introduced JICA-assisted projects conducted in Afghanistan and the Philippines as part of efforts to empower women and shared three lessons that his organization had learned from these projects. The first is that violence directed towards women often intensifies during and after conflicts and disasters; training and deploying female police officers is essential for preventing escalation of violence towards women. The second is that supporting the social and economic self-reliance of a community's women who are living in poverty helps stabilize a society thrown into confusion after a conflict or disaster. The third is that it is important to incorporate the suggestions of a wide range of stakeholders, including women, during efforts to reestablish stable societies and develop disaster risk reduction plans.



Afghanistan

## Working with UNICEF to Eradicate Infectious Diseases



Afghanistan has one of the highest childhood mortality rates in the world. A large number of these deaths are still caused by infectious diseases that could be prevented by immunization. In December of 2016, JICA signed an agreement with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to provide grant aid for a project aimed at preventing infectious diseases among children.

This project will procure vaccines against tuberculosis, measles, and hepatitis B for 1.3 million children under the age of one, vaccines against polio for 9.5 million children under the age of five, and tetanus vaccines for 2.5 million women of child-bearing age.

Eichiro Cho, Chief Representative of JICA Afghanistan Office (left) and Adele Khodr, Representative of UNICEF Afghanistan Country Office (right)

The project will also finance efforts to provide communities with information about preventing infectious diseases and to develop the capacity of vaccination workers and others engaged in vaccination activities.

Eradicating polio, in particular, is a priority for the Afghan government. The number of new polio cases in Afghanistan has fluctuated in recent years, and there is an on-going need for high-quality vaccination campaigns in addition to the Extended Program on Immunization, which is conducted jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. This project will support Afghanistan's own steps towards eradicating polio.

Polio is a crippling and potentially deadly disease caused by a virus. It currently remains in only three countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria.



Morocco

## Fisheries Industry Benefits from Japanese Shipbuilding Technology



In January of 2017, JICA signed a loan agreement with the National Institute of Fisheries Research (INRH) of Morocco to provide a Japanese ODA loan to Morocco for a project involving the construction of a vessel for oceanographic and fisheries research.

In this project, Morocco will use Japanese shipbuilding technology to construct a vessel capable of carrying out advanced oceanographic and fisheries research. This will strengthen Morocco's science capability to improve the management of marine resources and advance the sustainable development of its fisheries industry.

The fisheries industry is an important source of foreign currency and jobs for Morocco. Morocco has outstanding fishing grounds in the Atlantic

Hitoshi Tojima, Chief Representative of JICA Morocco Office (left) and Abdelmalek Faraj, Director of INRH (right)

Ocean, and the fisheries sector accounts for approximately five percent of the country's total export value. Since 2000, however, climate change and marine pollution have led to unstable catch volumes, which in turn affect the livelihoods of people working in fisheries-related jobs.

Therefore, management of marine resources is a key policy for the government of Morocco. Improving oceanographic and fisheries research capacity is a priority.

The vessels currently used for fisheries research were purchased 20 years ago using previous Japanese grant money. The fleet is aging and needs to be replaced.

The project will be conducted under the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP), a scheme designed to increase the visibility of Japanese aid to developing countries both in Japan and in recipient countries.