

in developing countries. In Africa, for example, to respond to rapidly expanding demand for rice, JICA jointly launched the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) in collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). CARD is promoting initiatives to double the production of rice in Sub-Saharan Africa over a 10-year period from 2008 (14 million tons annually to 28 million tons).

#### Disaster Emergency Responses and Recovery/Reconstruction and Disaster Prevention Aid

There has been a sharp rise in the number of people suddenly struck by disasters and who have lost the foundations of their livelihood. In 2008, more than 130,000 people were killed or missing in Myanmar as a result of a cyclone and around 70,000 lives were lost in the Sichuan earthquake in China, while approximately 220,000 people perished from the Haiti earthquake in January 2010. Meanwhile, around 20 million people became victims of the unprecedented damage caused by major flooding in Pakistan in July. As these examples demonstrate, natural disasters easily take the livelihoods and lives of many people in an instant.

Residents of developing countries account for approximately 90% of those who are killed or missing as a result of natural disasters around the world. This high casualty rate is attributable

especially to inadequate preparations against disasters in developing countries, and disaster-related damage is apt to be concentrated among vulnerable people such as the poor and the elderly. The occurrence and strength of cyclones and other natural disasters are expected to increase in the future due to climate change. There is concern that economic losses caused by frequently occurring natural disasters will nullify efforts to achieve growth by developing regions that aim to overcome poverty.

The year 2010 marks the 15th year since Japan’s Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Japan experiences major damage from a variety of disasters that range from geophysical disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions to meteorological disasters such as typhoons, heavy rains and flooding and snow damage. Nevertheless, Japan is an advanced country in the field of disaster prevention and has compiled numerous achievements in this area. Based on the lessons learned from past disasters, Japan has established related legal systems and disaster prevention related facilities, carries out disaster prevention training and education, and sets up emergency response structures that function smoothly when a disaster strikes. There are some countries and international institutions that have some technologies and knowledge related to disaster prevention and disaster emergency response. Nonetheless, Japan is the only country capable of integrated comprehensive

#### Case Study

### Large-Scale Project for the Revitalization of Kabul Gets Underway

#### Afghanistan: Project on the Promotion of Kabul Metropolitan Area Development

The population of Kabul, the capital city of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, used to be around two million in 1999, but has already reached over four million at present, exceeding the population absorption capacity of the city. Therefore, there are escalating urban problems such as lowering of the groundwater level, contamination of water, air and soil, an increase of illegal residents and traffic congestion. The development of social infrastructure and improvement of living conditions are becoming critical issues.

To tackle such issues, JICA conducted the Study for the Development of the Master Plan for the Kabul Metropolitan Area from 2008 to 2009.” The study was in response to a request from the Afghan government, aimed at reconstruction and development of the Kabul Metropolitan Area as a symbol of national integration.

In February 2010, JICA concluded an agreement with the Afghan government to implement a Technical Cooperation project entitled the Project on the Promotion of Kabul Metropolitan Area Development. This large-scale, five-year project (2010- 2014) to develop capacity to realize the master plan

has gotten underway. In the project, JICA has been supporting improvement of Afghanistan’s capacity in the development of infrastructure, implementation of new city development and urban revitalization. JICA will build a solid

foundation for the Kabul Metropolitan Area Development scheme through an appropriate combination of human resource development and steady urban improvement.



Candidate site for a new city (Dehsabz)