cooperation to provide continuous seamless support ranging from disaster emergency response to recovery and reconstruction as well as building disaster prevention structures. JICA regards its assistance for disaster response and prevention as a type of intellectual property that Japan should transmit to the world, and will strengthen its efforts in this area as a form of support that benefits the international public interest within the global community.

Initiative for Reducing Poverty: Contributing to the Attainment of the MDGs

Progress of the MDGs

The United Nations Millennium Summit was convened in New York in September 2000 with the participation of 189 nations. There are now five years remaining until the agreed-upon 2015 attainment period for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were formulated with a view to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, a target for the international community in the 21st century. Through initiatives carried out to date by each country and institution, a certain amount of progress is being made toward attaining each target, beginning with a reduction in poverty, including expectations that the population of the world’s most poor will decline from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 920 million in 2015. However, initiatives have lagged in other areas, including achieving universal primary education, improving maternal health and preventing infectious diseases and providing access to safe water. Regionally, delays are serious in fragile countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia.

Moreover, the impact of world circumstances, including concerns about an increase in the proportion of poor and starving following the financial and economic crises in 2008 and the effects of the crises on maternal health, in addition to climate change, conflicts and natural disasters such as the Haiti earthquake in January 2010, are having a large effect on progress toward achieving the MDGs. Therefore, the world must now make greater efforts with even stronger determination to attain these goals.

Initiatives toward Achieving Targets

The past 10 years (2000–2010) was a period of large growth for