

the world economy. The world GDP, which stood at approximately US\$32 trillion in 2000, doubled to about US\$60 trillion over the 10-year period to 2010. During this decade, the GDP of Asia, excluding Japan, has tripled from around US\$3 trillion to US\$10 trillion. This growth in Asia has contributed to a decline in the number of people living in extreme poverty. On the other hand, although Africa's GDP rose from US\$0.6 trillion in 2000 to US\$1.6 trillion in 2010, this accounted for only around 3% of the world economy. Moreover, the poverty rate in Sub-Saharan Africa has failed to significantly improve, declining from 56% in 1990 to 51% in 2005, with 400 million people still living on income of less than US\$1 per day.

A variety of factors are considered to underlie Asia's continued breathtaking development. These include the creation of relatively peaceful and stable societies, the establishment of economic infrastructures and legal systems and the securing of funds needed for cultivating human resources and development. Providing in-depth support to ensure sustainable growth and assure that the fruits of this growth reach each person will contribute significantly to the attainment of the MDGs.

From soft components (raising capabilities and improving structures through Technical Assistance) to hard components (establishing infrastructures through financial aid), JICA can provide the support needed by developing countries to achieve sustainable growth and ensure that the benefits of this growth reach each person. In regions such as Asia, where upper-middle-income countries are increasing, JICA is carrying out development assistance aimed at correcting disparities while promoting economic growth.

On the other hand, in regions such as Africa with its numerous

impoverished countries, JICA is providing assistance for eliminating bottlenecks to poverty improvements and realizing fair and sustainable economic growth while striving to support basic social services such as providing access to healthcare, education and safe drinking water. By doing so, JICA will strive to further contribute to the attainment of the MDGs.

In the post-MDGs era after 2015, Africa is expected to continue requiring assistance. Besides traditional MDGs, such global-scale public affairs as climate change and biodiversity will also be matters of common concern. There is also likely to be ongoing focus on building peace through equitable growth and continuously reducing poverty and supporting fragile states through this growth. While remaining aware of co-existence, JICA will continue to make its utmost efforts to attain these goals.

#### Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa

The African continent, especially Sub-Saharan Africa, is most likely to be the only continent unable to attain most of the MDGs if the current tendency persists according to *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009* compiled by the United Nations; in contrast, Southeast Asia is expected to achieve nine, and North Africa 11 out of 18 targets. Clearly, development of Africa is crucial, even in comparison with other regions in achieving the MDGs.

Japan's assistance strategy for Africa centers around “Boosting Economic Growth,” “Achieving the MDGs” and “Environmental and Climate Change Issues,” as set forth at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in Yokohama on May 2008. JICA is intensifying its initiatives for achieving the MDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing support

#### Case Study

### Medical Care Team Supports Regional Medical Care amid Enormous Devastation

#### Haiti: Earthquake Disaster

At 4:53 pm local time on January 12, 2010, a devastating magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck an area 25km west-southwest of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. Due in part to the epicenter's close proximity to the capital, the tremor caused massive devastation, claiming the lives of 222,517 people, injuring 310,928 and leaving over 3 million people as disaster victims.

At 11 am on January 14, the Japanese government decided to dispatch an assessment team to Haiti, and this team departed on the same date. On the following day, January 15, the Japanese government responded to a request from the Haitian government and dispatched a Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) medical care team on January 16. On January 17, the medical team commenced its activities inside the premises of a nursing

school in the city of Léogâne approximately 40km southwest of the capital. Over an eight-day period, the team provided medical treatment to a total of 534 persons, most of whom were suffering from serious injuries. The Japanese medical team supported medical care in the region in collaboration with teams from other countries. Of particular note, in response to requests from teams from various countries, the Japanese medical team played a large role in providing diagnoses using such devices as digital radiology machines and echo-imaging devices.

Haiti is one region to which UN peace-keeping operation (PKO) missions have been dispatched, as the country has grappled with security problems. However, the Japanese medical team was able to safely complete its activities under the protection of Sri Lankan

military and Canadian military.

Since there were needs for long-term medical assistance after the completion of JDR activities, medical care support was taken over by the Self Defense Force until February 13.



A child after completing a medical examination and a nurse