Chapter IV  Direction of Cooperation

1. Japan's Initiatives for Cooperation with ASEAN

ASEAN covers a region that is significant to Japan. Japan's initiatives for ASEAN cooperation date back to as early as 1977, when the then prime minister, Takeo FUKUDA, announced what became known as the Fukuda Doctrine. After the Asian economic crisis in 1997, the following development-related initiatives were announced by successive prime ministers. This report briefly reviews these initiatives as follows, as a reference for studying the direction of future cooperation.

### Japan-ASEAN Cooperation for the 21st Century (Hashimoto Initiative):
in the unofficial Japan-ASEAN summit meeting in 1997

- Cooperation for currency and financial stability.
- Cooperation for ASEAN's economic structural reform and its stable and sustainable development (human resources development, infrastructure building and small and medium businesses and supporting industries development).
- Concerted efforts to address issues facing the international community (South-South Cooperation, environmental preservation, energy conservation, enhancement in welfare and health and measures against international organized crimes including terrorism and drugs).

### Obuchi Plan: in the ASEAN+1 Summit Meeting in 1999

- Human resources development in East Asia.
- Continued support for the socially disadvantaged.
- Cooperation for development of ASEAN (assistance for the Hanoi Plan of Action, cooperation for correcting the internal gaps in the region and cooperation for upgrading the organizational functions of ASEAN).
- Cooperation for strengthening the foundations for economic rehabilitation and for compatibility with the information age (cultivation of small and midsize businesses and supporting industries, trade and investment, cultivation of industrial personnel and information and communications infrastructure).
- Piracy issues.

### Specific Cooperation for Stronger Japan-ASEAN partnership (by Prime Minister Yoshiro MORI): in the ASEAN+1 Summit Meeting in 2000

- Equal partnership between Japan and ASEAN in a globalized international community (information and communications).
- Strengthening Japan-ASEAN relations (support for overseas students and trade and investment).
- Disparity between old and new ASEAN members and Japan's assistance (development of the Mekong River basin).

### Japan's New Initiatives (by Prime Minister Junichiro KOIZUMI): in the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Meeting in 2003

- Focus on ASEAN in Japan's ODA policy.
- Three priority areas in the Japan-ASEAN cooperation:
  - Cooperation in reinforcing ASEAN integration (narrowing the gap and improving infrastructure).
  - Cooperation in enhancing economic competitiveness of ASEAN members including investment promotion, assistance in bilateral EPAs, human resources development and institutional capacity building.
  - Cooperation for addressing terrorism, piracy and other transnational issues.
- Total Plan for Human Resource Development.
- Mekong Region Development.
Prime Minister KOIZUMI announced his initiatives mentioned above in the Japan-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Meeting, which was the first such meeting held outside the ASEAN zone. They declared that Japan would unrelentingly attach great importance to ASEAN and that the country would extend its sincere and open partnership with ASEAN to “act together and advance together” in the new era. The Commemorative Summit Meeting published the Tokyo Declaration as well as the Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action, outlined in the box below, as an attachment to the Declaration. Given that the Plan of Action was adopted at the historic meeting as a compilation of the past several initiatives, that it includes some new initiatives such as comprehensive economic partnership and that it was proposed with the agreement of both sides, it is considered to serve as a very significant guideline to future policies.

<table>
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<th>Main points of the Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action</th>
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<td><strong>(1) Reinforcing comprehensive economic partnership and financial and monetary cooperation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Expedite the realization of the bilateral EPAs.</td>
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<td>- Implement the measures outlined in the Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership.</td>
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<td>- Cultivate a regional bond market and support the issuance of Asian currencies denominated bonds.</td>
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<td>- Cooperate in the transport sector, including facilitating or improving cargo, transportation infrastructure and logistics.</td>
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<td>- Invigorate information distribution.</td>
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<td><strong>(2) Strengthening the foundation for economic development and prosperity</strong></td>
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<td>- Support for realization of the IAI, Mekong Region Development and BIMP-EAGA.</td>
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<td>- Industrial human resources development (in ICT, automobile, electronics and other fields) and training on technical skills and management know-how.</td>
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<td>- Energy security and food security.</td>
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<td><strong>(3) Strengthening political and security cooperation and partnership</strong></td>
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<td>- Hold meetings of high-level officials and set up a team of experts in 2004.</td>
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<td>- Exchange programs and joint research in the defense and security fields.</td>
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<td>- Launch a joint meeting on counter-terrorism and develop human resources to enhance the capacity to combat terrorism.</td>
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<td>- Intensify efforts to combat people smuggling, illicit drug problem and piracy.</td>
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<td>- Promote cooperation among coast guards and competent authorities.</td>
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<td><strong>(4) Promoting Human Resource Development, exchanges and social and cultural cooperation</strong></td>
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<td>- Expand access to basic education.</td>
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<td>- Establish the Japan-Malaysia International University of Technology.</td>
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<td>- Support ASEAN students to study in Japan and encourage Japanese students to study in ASEAN member countries.</td>
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<td>- Enrich Japanese language education.</td>
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<td>- Provide information on entry into Japanese universities and hold the Examination for Japanese University Admission in ASEAN member countries.</td>
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<td>- Host 10,000 ASEAN youths, including students, over the next five years.</td>
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<td>- Make the environment more conducive for the stay of students from ASEAN member countries in Japan.</td>
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<td>- Promote exchange among villages, municipalities and cities.</td>
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<td>- Promote exchange programs for academics.</td>
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<td>- Cooperate in the preservation and restoration of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.</td>
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85 In the interview with the ASEAN Secretariat in March 2005, the Secretariat expressed its hopes that this Plan of Action will actually be implemented and that it will associate this Plan of Action with the progress in the Vientiane Action Program.

86 The Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting in 2005 reconfirmed that the Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action would be given great importance (ASEAN Secretariat (2005i)).
- Promote cooperation in information dissemination and public relations communication, including the exchange of journalists.

(5) Deepening East Asia Cooperation
- Expedite the implementation of the 17 short-term measures recommended by the East Asia Study Group\(^2\) before 2006.
- Feasibility studies on medium- and long-term measures such as the establishment of the East Asia Free Trade Area.

(6) Cooperation in addressing global issues
- Promote human security.
- Support the efforts to control infectious diseases.
- Collaborate in protecting the environment.
- Advance the multilateral trade system (Doha Development Agenda).
- Cooperate in strengthening of the UN, disaster reduction, South-South Cooperation, protection of human rights and poverty alleviation.

Cultivation of industrial human resources.
Support for small and medium enterprises.
Environmental conservation including CDM.
Infrastructure, legal system and human resources development in ICT.
Financial and other services sector.
Energy security.
Food security and safety.
Science and technology.

- Promote cooperation in information dissemination and public relations communication, including the exchange of journalists.

Note \(^1\): The Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership between Japan and ASEAN was signed by the leaders of Japan and the ASEAN member states in Bali, Indonesia on October 8, 2003.

\(^2\): Composed of vice foreign ministers and equivalents from ASEAN+3 (Japan, China and Republic of Korea), East Asia Study Group submitted a report recommending 26 concrete measures to be implemented within the framework of the ASEAN+3 cooperation to the ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on November 4, 2002. The 26 measures consist of 17 short-term measures as well as nine medium- and long-term measures, including the establishment of the East Asia Free Trade Area.

The Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan\(^7\) includes some areas of cooperation listed in the box below. In these areas, cooperation is not necessarily to be based on ODA.

- Establishment and appropriate implementation of systems for facilitating and encouraging trade and investment.
- Protection of intellectual property rights:
  - Protection of intellectual property rights.
  - Standard certification.
  - Increase in logistical efficiency and transport safety.
  - Simplification and harmonization of trade procedures such as customs formalities.
  - Competition policies.
- Cultivation of industrial human resources.
- Support for small and medium enterprises.
- Environmental conservation including CDM.
- Infrastructure, legal system and human resources development in ICT.
- Financial and other services sector.
- Energy security.
- Food security and safety.
- Science and technology.

Basically, these areas are covered by the Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action and by Japan’s New Initiatives. Japan has already reached bilateral economic partnership agreement with Malaysia, and agreements in principle with the Philippines and Thailand. Prompt action is required for the bilateral partnerships.

\(^7\) Framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan.
2. Direction of Assistance

(1) Basic position

In the preceding section, this report noted that there has been an international trend towards regional integration and that the regional integration implemented in consistency with the WTO is today a key development challenge that benefits developing nations. In the East Asian region, a certain paradigm of the economic system suggested in the conventional economic development pattern is becoming obsolete. On the other hand, the attempt to establish an East Asian community is evolving into a realistic policy. This report also argues that the forerunning integration body, namely ASEAN, has a certain level of bargaining power to play an intermediary role as a hub of East Asian cooperation in this environment and that the regional system adopted in the area has significance as a referential framework or a precursory example to the debate over integration in the East Asian region.

East Asia, including ASEAN and especially senior ASEAN members, actually sees an economic integration underway, centered on intra-industrial trading in machinery industry. The bandwagoning towards regional trade agreements serves to further accelerate regionalization in the respect of policies and institutions.

In other words, support for ASEAN integration is important in two senses. First, it vitalizes trade and investment and narrows the gap to contribute to the development of ASEAN states. Second, its achievement is spread broadly across East Asia through boosted trade and investment and institutionalized cooperation in the region. As the premise of these discussions, it is imperative for the East Asian region that ASEAN retain a sense of unity as a regional integration entity and attain political and economic stability, which helps make the East Asian area politically and economically settled.

(2) Regional cooperation, combating global challenges and assistance to ASEAN member countries

1) Classification of cooperation to multiple countries

In the context of the above discussion, assistance in ASEAN integration has a positive spillover effect on the area outside the ASEAN zone and a sense of backing the establishment of regional public goods that supports the development of member countries in the zone. This is support for building a regional mechanism in which developing countries make collective self-help efforts. Assistance in addressing such questions as counter-terrorism and environmental conservation can be seen as a kind of global offering of international public goods or its regional application.

In light of these points, the cooperation to multiple countries can be divided into two types depending on the challenge to be addressed: the first is cooperation to undertake regional challenges and the second is a regional response to global issues. Each type of cooperation is assessed below.

2) Regional cooperation

In this section, regional cooperation is defined as cooperation aimed at achieving ASEAN’s regional objectives. According to this definition, regional cooperation is analogous to support for regional integration. This is because it is regional integration that ten ASEAN members have all agreed

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88 Oyane (2004)
89 It is possible to offer support to multiple countries for the purpose of ensuring effective and efficient implementation of the assistance rather than for addressing the challenge of supplying regional and international public goods. This report suggests that this type of cooperation should be separately classified as broad-area cooperation in Chapter VI.
to work for as a common regional goal. This type of cooperation contributes to provision of regional public goods. Granted that ASEAN defines the ASEAN community as consisting of a security community, an economic community and a socio-cultural community and that the following section numbered (3) refers to regional cooperation as support for fulfilling the requirements for deepened and sustained integration, regional cooperation fundamentally encompasses very broad areas.

3) Cooperation in addressing transnational issues

Naturally, fundamental agreements on joint efforts among all ASEAN states include more extensive agreements that encompass ASEAN members, such as those reached at the level of the UN or the ASEAN+3 framework. As argued in the preceding chapter, ASEAN+3 and other frameworks are placed in the category of regional cooperation as defined in this context, given it is ASEAN that takes the initiative. On the other hand, regional responses to global challenges, like consensuses formed in the UN, are not necessarily uniquely identical although there are some such targets that are incorporated into the objectives in regional integration and that should be tackled by regional cooperation. In view of the global nature of the issues, fundamental agreements are already in place for most countries. We should consider the most favorable regional framework or geographical scope based on the specific quality of individual issues. Japan emphasizes this task in the ODA Charter, describing it as a global issue. It is necessary to study the regional framework best suited to attain this target. This is more evident in the event of studying specific support. Take for instance the action to combat haze from among efforts for environmental preservation. In this example, the support and cooperation will target specifically the area centered on Indonesia, and will also include other afflicted countries, namely Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam. Or if assistance is offered to help establish ASEAN’s environmental standards, it is necessary to study it as a case of regional cooperation for the entire ASEAN area. For environmental conservation in the Mekong river basin, it would be effective to envision a framework that encompasses Indochinese countries and the Chinese province of Yunnan. It is speculated that the Indochina region has numerous regional frameworks possibly because of the intention to form a structure with the highest possible effectiveness according to the nature of the question addressed. To meet a general objective of raising awareness about the environment, it is possible to call for applications from across the Asia-Pacific region to provide cooperation. Depending on the situation, assistance in the construction of a regional disaster control system may be directed towards countries on the Indian Ocean. Or it is conceivable to help create ASEAN’s disaster control system instead. Within the category of cooperation in tackling non-traditional security challenges, cooperation in anti-piracy action would mainly cover Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. For assistance in anti-drug action, it will be necessary to think about covering not only the ASEAN area but China as well. Even with a fundamental agreement, some countries may be negative about specific cooperation schemes. When the donor’s side aims to ensure that a global issue is regionally addressed, it may offer its aid to the entire ASEAN region in the form of regional cooperation or it may limit the destination of its assistance to a smaller geographical area or even think of offering broader-area cooperation depending on the specific issue to address. It is essential to define the most favorable geographical scope to produce the effect. All these types of cooperation are collectively referred to as cooperation in addressing transnational issues. Even when they engage in ASEAN or only part of it, aid officials must always examine the cooperation from these perspectives.
4) Interrelationship of multilateral cooperation programs and bilateral assistance

The Japanese ODA programs run by JICA have in principle taken the form of bilateral cooperation. They were run in the framework of bilateral cooperation to meet needs peculiar to individual beneficiary states or to tackle what is referred to as transnational challenges in the section. In many cases, however, it may be preferable to offer cooperation to address transnational questions by regarding multiple countries as a single destination compared to providing bilateral cooperation. It is implied in the expression of “transnational.” It is presumed that it will help better maintain the perspective of human security. Granted the existence of regional integration, it is necessary to invariably pay attention to the relationship between regional integration and cooperation in addressing problems peculiar to individual countries and in realizing global goals even in the event of offering such cooperation. This is well reflected in the history of JARCOM, which is explained in Chapter VI. At first, it was an opportunity in which opinions were exchanged among senior ASEAN members learning from the achievements and experiences of Third-country Training. At that stage, the Third-country Training program covers not only other ASEAN member states but also countries located in other parts of the planet. Later, it was reorganized as a meeting of ASEAN countries including the CLMV countries, which would receive the training. It has thus evolved into an opportunity of considering regional cooperation.

How can we perceive the relationship between ordinary bilateral cooperation and regional cooperation? Take the efforts to combat poverty for example. ASEAN is committed to achieving its own MDGs. As is discussed in the following section numbered (3), it needs to work towards these goals for the sake of regional integration in the sense that it would be difficult to sustain the move towards integration if its benefits were unequally distributed. In this respect, support for efforts made by individual countries to reduce poverty constitutes part of regional cooperation in a broad sense. But from a more profound perspective, it will play a greater role in contributing to regional integration if the assistance in anti-poverty action in a country takes place in a sub-regional cooperation target area. This example shows that many of the existing bilateral cooperation programs operated in different countries and existing cooperation programs targeting multiple states may be seen as components that produce a positive effect on regional integration in a broad sense. It means that this kind of cooperation may contribute to regional integration and to the provision of regional public goods provided that they are associated with regional challenges and that their target countries are qualified. The same goes for transnational issues. Many international agreements are recognized by ASEAN. Many such issues are also perceived and addressed as regional issues. When setting out a cooperation project for a country, aid officials need to study the level of priority in the country and in the region as well as global issues to ensure that they develop an optimal aid program.

(3) Supporting deeper integration and the conditions for sustained integration

So what does it mean to support ASEAN integration? This question will be considered from two perspectives. The first perspective is encouraging a deepening integration, while the second is meeting the requirements for sustained integration. Deepening integration means institutionalizing regional integration to facilitate the free movement of people, goods, money and information and a stronger policy coordination mechanism. It also means progress in establishing the foundation for institutionalization. It includes development of infrastructure and an increase in capacity. Deepening integration does not necessarily refer solely to policies and systems relating to trade and investment. It does encompass regional systems that will help ensure security, foster environmental conservation, push for democratization and strengthen human

90 Precisely, the JARCOM member states include East Timor.
rights protection as well as development of domestic foundations for these purposes. What is vital in introducing these systems is to devise systems of the highest possible quality. It is important to domestic institutional reforms, to regional development and to wider-area cooperation alike. This is a task of ASEAN, which acts as an intermediary or a hub. Japan is able to play a significant role in this aspect of support.

Meanwhile, satisfying the conditions for integration primarily means narrowing the disparities that lie within the region. This, however, does not refer only to the gap between the senior ASEAN members and late-joining members. Of course, it is important for them to catch up with the front-running members. But if integration were to broaden domestic disparities, or in other words, if the deregulation of trade and investment were to give rise to a situation where benefits of integration are concentrated in limited districts or levels of the society while the cost of integration is imputed to the rest of the region or the society that is unable to reap its benefits, domestic support would be undermined, making it difficult for countries to remain part of the integration process. It follows, then, that it is of prime importance to endeavor to redress regional disparities in individual countries, to deal with the gap among social classes as typically seen in the poverty issue and to run the initiatives directed at transnational poverty zones that can be facilitated by a regional framework. We do, however, need to note that the initiative for regional integration itself is an attempt to mitigate the impact of globalization on individual countries under the regional system.

Without doubt, these two perspectives are relative. As discussed above in this report, in a case in which there is any competition among different regional frameworks, integration could make no progress. If another regional body were to take powerful steps towards unification to increase its appeal, member states could potentially move over to the new body and the integration process could stall. That is to say, when multifarious bodies compete, strengthening integration is an essential component in sustaining the process. If intra-regional disparities are not remedied, some member states may be unable to keep pace with the developing systems. In this case, meeting conditions for ongoing integration will be essential to intensifying integration.

(4) Support for ASEAN and human security

The ODA Charter states that Japan emphasizes support for self-help and the perspective of human security in its basic assistance policy. What will it be like to offer support to the ASEAN region in line with the human security approach? Human security refers to a principle in favor of strengthening the fight against threats to human existence, life and dignity. It is defined that the most important thing in providing human security is to ensure the freedom of individuals and their abundant potential for leading creative and valuable lives91. And this principle suggests that, to attain human security, it is essential to create a system in which people, enjoying protection and supported by skill development, are capable of fully exerting their potential92.

When we focus on regional integration and on multi-country action to combat threats to human existence, life and dignity, we design a framework that ensures human security in a trans-boundary area or in multiple countries, which will serve as an environment that allows people to fully exert their potential. In this approach, transnational areas and groups of multiple nations are taken into consideration at the time of demarcating a targeted geographical area to make it the most appropriate to deal with the difficulties facing the humans from a human-centered perspective.

Endeavors to combat contagion of financial crises as in the Asian economic crisis, terrorism issues,
non-traditional security problems and environmental, avian flu and other questions are aimed at preventing and removing the trans-border threats to humans. Regional integration and these efforts to address cross-boundary issues can be seen as initiatives to achieve human security. Classified as assistance in meeting the requirements for sustained integration, cooperation for redressing the disparities and for eradicating poverty as well as the move towards sharing intra-regional social problems via the regional integration body93 will help those countries and societies that address these threats to increase their capabilities to cope with them.

The human security approach is thought to be further underpinned by supporting ASEAN integration and by tackling transnational targets.

(5) Primary support areas

In light of the perspective discussed above, this report proposes the direction of primary assistance as follows. The assistance offered to ASEAN will remain positioned as principal assistance. From a regional perspective, the assistance will focus on furthering ASEAN integration. In addition, it will aim at taking up transnational challenges to be achieved particularly in this region. With regard to human resources development, Japan has maintained a continuous intensive commitment. This section outlines the concept behind this. More specifically, the details of the support will be as follows:

1) Bringing ASEAN into a more integrated form

The support will be divided into two categories, as described below.

(i) Support for building the systems and infrastructure that enable free movement of people, goods, money and information (support for deepening of integration)

This support is designed primarily to strengthen what is helpful to trade, investment, public and private finance and human movement as well as the requisite functions of the ASEAN Secretariat. Hence, it will be centered on development of the transport infrastructure and the logistic systems that will help reduce the service link costs, IT infrastructure, establishment of regional institutions concerning easing of trade, standard and mutual recognition arrangements, intellectual property rights and suchlike, development in the financial sector including the development of bond markets, unification of engineer qualification systems and fostering of small and medium enterprises. It will also include an upgrading of capacity in areas concerned with the challenges, which serves as a basis of the above targets. Assistance for ensuring security and for combating emerging infectious diseases is important indeed, but for the reason stated in section (2) above, the support that will help intensify integration in these areas will be lumped together with assistance in meeting cross-boundary challenges.

Several countries have already signed bilateral economic partnership agreements and framework agreements with Japan94. Support relating to these agreements is particularly urgent.

As discussed in Chapter V, preliminary studies were conducted in the fields of trade and investment, transport, ITC and finance. Prime support targets in these sectors are as follows.

Trade and Investment: assistance in setting up regional systems advantageous to industrial statistics,
customs clearance, standard certification, protection of intellectual property and other rights as well as in building up the capabilities of separate countries.

**Transport**: contribution to improved services, to the establishment of regional technical and service standards with an aim of achieving regional harmonization of the transport infrastructure, and to increased speed and efficiency in import and export formalities by means of introducing transport infrastructure and services, and support for smoother border-crossing by launching one-stop services and for increasing security and safety of transport.

**Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**: assistance to be provided chiefly in devising national and regional policies and institutions, in human resources development, in regional networking, especially in creating information and communications infrastructure that will help expand information and communications networks to rural areas, and in the active use of ICT in the assistance programs.

**Finance**: cooperation to be undertaken mainly in helping individual states to develop the capacity to operate macro economic policies to facilitate movement of funds for dealing with regional economic uncertainty, in creating ABM as well as short-term financial markets serving to stabilize foreign exchange markets and to develop bond markets.

(ii) **Eradicating poverty and disparities (support to meet the conditions for sustained integration)**

This support is focused on cooperation with CLMV countries in narrowing the intra-regional gaps and on regional efforts targeting poverty zones across the national borders of the BIMP-EAGA. Action by individual countries to slash poverty and their domestic attempts to redress the disparities among different areas may fall under this type of assistance in a broad sense, but among other issues, the support offered to CLMV countries and the sub-regional cooperation correspond to this, as argued in the foregoing section numbered (3). Chapter III affirms that individual states in the region have generally been making steady progress in their bid for MDGs, with some exceptions. It is expected that they together with the international community will continue their current efforts. Action against social destabilization arising as the price of integration in different countries is part of the contribution to satisfy the requirements for continuation of the integration process. It may possibly involve not only what is collectively perceived as transnational challenges, such as security and environmental conservation, but also some initiatives that fall under cooperation in social fields. Presumed to be an embodiment of the action, the bid to build a security or socio-cultural community is still at the very initial stage. It will be necessary in future to study what cooperation can be offered in this area.

Here in this part of the report, the spotlight is cast on the assistance to the CLMV countries as well as on the IMT-GT and the BIMP-EAGA as sub-regional economic zones. The CLMV states are described as in a column of ASEAN growth area in Table 3-10. Apart from these, there are other schemes to set up sub-regional economic zones in the ASEAN region, such as the Mekong River Commission (MRC), the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and the CLV Development Triangle. Given that some districts are covered by multiple programs, it is necessary to examine the possibilities of cooperation in careful consideration of their interrelationship.

**CLMV**: Assistance to CLMV countries will be focused in general on cooperation in developing infrastructure, bolstering trade and investment, and human resources development, and specifically on
developing economic infrastructure including networks of transport, electric power supply and telecommunications, immigration control, logistical support including improvement of customs, tourism development, organizing business forums and improvements in higher education. For this zone, it is essential to pay special attention, among transnational challenges, to infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, emerging infectious diseases including SARS and bird flu, a crackdown on drugs, terrorism, piracy and other crimes, disaster prevention measures against earthquakes and tsunamis, environmental action for forests, international rivers, abatement of acid rain and other issues.

Sub-regional Economic Zones: The IMT-GT and the BIMP-EAGA both face poverty and non-traditional security problems. In offering assistance to these zones, the emphasis will be placed on the cooperation aimed at helping stabilize the regions including that in peace-making and in the non-traditional security area and on cooperation for encouraging economic development through stimulating trade and activities in the private sector.

2) Transnational challenges

This section examines cross-boundary challenges to be intensively addressed in the ASEAN region as well, specifically security cooperation, environmental preservation, energy security, action for combating emerging infectious diseases, disaster prevention and food security and safety. The initiatives for democratization and human rights will be among other future key areas of cooperation. This report opts to exclude them from review in 1) above. This is not only because of the reason explained in (3) above but also because the targets to be undertaken in these initiatives are too polysemic to categorize in 1) above. And they are polysemic because they may be conducive to both the intensification of integration and the fulfillment of conditions for continued integration. If the action for creating a security or socio-cultural community is further reinforced, it will be clearer which of the components classified as transnational ones are better studied as part of the endeavor to intensify integration. In addition, as argued in (3), it is vital to determine the appropriate geographical areas for individual specific targets.

The study group conducted a preliminary study on cooperation in public security issues, environmental conservation and energy security. The results will be summarized below. Other important steps include the construction of a regional system for disaster prevention and emergency aid among the countries in the Indian Ocean and in the ASEAN framework as well as disaster control systems in individual countries in the field of disaster prevention, support for early detection of infection and development of a system for emergency response in the field of avian flu, and cooperation for ensuring a regional stable food supply on the assumption of food interdependence and for raising the level of food safety standards and health standards in the field of food security and safety. The move for democratization and human rights protection is critical to the future intensification of ASEAN institutions. It is confirmed in the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action. In view of the current conditions, however, it will be realistic to hold talks with national governments and the ASEAN Secretariat and consider the circumstances of different countries to provide assistance for countries to which it can be offered and to the extent possible. For the near future, election support, bolstering of legislative and judicial capabilities, functional upgrades of national human rights commissions and the ASEAN Secretariat, improvements in national and regional capacity to investigate these targets and encouragement of opinion exchange will be considered on the basis of these dialogues and in collaboration with national governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, the ASEAN
Secretariat and other parties.

Public Security and Development: Cooperation in improving institutional capabilities including the standardization of systems for regional statutory enhancement to combat terrorism, sea piracy, money laundering, cyber crimes and suchlike, cooperation in human resources development, improving accountability in addition to action for the active exploitation of the network of researchers in the region, which may be viewed as ASEAN’s “Track Three” functions.

Environment: Stepping up action to address domestic environmental issues as a basis of global- and regional-scale environmental efforts, promoting the capabilities of individual countries beneficial to dealing with trans-boundary environmental issues at the sub-regional level and proper control of shared natural resources, support for CDM projects run by developing nations as part of initiatives for global environmental improvements, establishment of systems and related facilities for regional environmental control as part of the assistance in regional integration and other issues.

Energy: Support for energy conservation, diversification of energy sources including the development of alternative energy, tightening of complementary relations in the ASEAN region, institutional development for ensuring energy supply in provincial areas and cooperation serving to ensure a stable supply of oil in the region including oil stockpiling will be studied as primary challenges.

3) Commitment to Human Resource Development

It should be noted that human resources development is always given an independent and special priority status both from the perspectives of Japan’s initiatives and of the requests from ASEAN. It is an especially key area of cooperation. But in many cases, it also constitutes an element for achieving goals in different challenges. In a way, it is helpful to furthering integration, to meeting the conditions for continuance of integration and even to achieving cross-boundary targets. It involves a number of different factors. In line with the in-depth analysis in Chapter V and the particular edition, human resources development is categorized from the regional standpoint into the following four types: (i) human resources development for increasing competitiveness, such as the development of people that can respond to the demands of the business world; (ii) human resources development beneficial to progress in integration, including the nurturing of personnel who propel integration; (iii) human resources development for addressing transnational challenges and (iv) human resources development that serves to correct the disparities. Support for human resources development will be provided in the form of independent program suited to these different objectives or as a component of other assistance programs.

It is confirmed that the direction of prime assistance discussed above is fully consistent with the past efforts made by ASEAN and its future orientation outlined in above sections and also with the direction of Japan’s initiatives.

As is already understood by readers, Japan has already implemented a great number of support projects for separate countries in the support areas mentioned in this chapter and many of these areas have been positioned as key supports for individual beneficiary countries. But with some exceptions, Japan has not defined these aid projects as consistent cooperation from a regional point of view. It has not designed them to contribute to regional integration or regional interests. Moreover, it is also imperative to devise new cooperation schemes that are designed from the beginning to directly target ASEAN. Chapter VI presents more specific reference models of cooperation. Exploration in that
chapter is based on the notion that it is an important task to establish mechanisms, cooperation approaches and implementation structures that facilitate regional action that has hardly been done.

The next and subsequent section offer closer analyses in each area of cooperation on the basis of the basic direction of primary assistance. Given that the orientations of principal support argued in 1) are mainly concerned with the implementation approach, the following part of the report will make no particular remarks on them. It is advisable to adopt a policy to work on bilateral cooperation or suchlike in the context of moderate regional programs.