Japan’s efforts for promoting the SDGs

Creating a prosperous and vibrant future through promoting the SDGs

SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee meeting
Paris, 12 September 2018
**Efforts by the SDGs Promotion Headquarters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May, 2016</th>
<th>Established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters led by PM and participated by all ministers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December, 2016</td>
<td>Stipulated Japan’s “SDGs Promotion Guiding Principles” at the 2nd meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June, 2017</td>
<td>Created the Japan SDGs Award at the 3rd meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December, 2017</td>
<td>Shared the major efforts by the government and private actors through announcing “SDGs Action Plan 2018” at the 4th meeting and holding the 1st SDGs Award ceremony in Dec. 2017, followed by “Expanded SDGs Action Plan 2018” decided at the 5th meeting in June 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June, 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd half of 2018</td>
<td>Crystalizing Japan’s SDGs Model by implementing the above-mentioned major efforts and further concretizing and expanding those efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td>Will conduct the first follow-up of the “SDGs Promotion Guiding Principles”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Will revise those “Guiding Principles”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 and beyond</td>
<td>Will achieve the SDGs by 2030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Communication towards the international community**

- At G7 Ise-Shima Summit
  - Committed to implement the SDGs domestically/internationally as the first G7 Summit after the SDGs adoption

- At the HLPF (Ministerial-level)
  - Presented Japan’s Voluntary National Review (VNR)

- At the HLPF (Ministerial-level)
  - in July, 2018

- At the HLPF (Leaders-level)
  - in September, 2019

- G20 Summit and TICAD 7
  - held in Japan in 2019

- Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020

- Expo 2025
Outline of Guidelines for the SDGs (Dec. 2016)

- **Vision:** We must work towards a sustainable future that leaves no one behind economically, socially, and environmentally.
- **Principles:** Universality, inclusiveness, participation, integration, transparency and accountability
- **First follow-up to be held in 2019**

### 8 Priority Issues and Concrete Measures

1. **Empowerment of All People**
   - Goal of 100 million active people
   - Female participation
   - Child poverty
   - Disability
   - Education

2. **Promotion of Health and Longevity**
   - Drugs
   - Preventative measures against infectious diseases in developing countries, strengthen health systems
   - Aging, especially in Asia

3. **Creating Growth Markets, Revitalization of Rural Areas and Promoting Technological Innovation**
   - Creating promising markets
   - Rural fish markets
   - Increasing productivity
   - Technological innovation
   - Sustainable cities

4. **Sustainable and Resilient Land Use, Promoting Quality Infrastructure**
   - Resilience/Disaster prevention
   - Water
   - Investment in infrastructure

5. **Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Countermeasures and Sound Material-Cycle Society**
   - Renewable Energy/Promotion of international development
   - Climate change
   - Recycle-oriented society

6. **Conservation of Environment, including Biodiversity, Forests and Oceans**
   - Environmental pollution
   - Conserving biodiversity
   - Sustainable forest, ocean, land resources

7. **Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies**
   - Organized crime, human trafficking, and child abuse
   - Peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts
   - Rule of law

8. **Strengthening the Means and Frameworks of the Implementation of the SDGs**
   - Multi-stakeholder partnership
   - Mainstreaming SDGs
   - Implementing SDGs in developing countries
The Government of Japan has composed this document under the SDGs Promotion Headquarters through consultation among relevant governmental agencies. In drafting the report and preparing the presentation, the SDGs Round Table Meetings were held comprising representatives of related governmental agencies and other stakeholders. Moreover, consultations were also held with civil societies and private companies.
(5) Overviews of progress in priority areas and highlights/ EDUCATION

Priority Area 1 "Empowerment of All People"

Domestic Issues and Efforts

Japan aims to reduce the burden of educational expenses, which continues from the early childhood education to higher education. It has been working on the step-by-step promotion of free-of-charge early childhood education and the establishment of a grant-type scholarship scheme to extend economic assistance. Also, efforts to enhance special needs education for children with disabilities and to promote education and learning to foster gender equality have been enacted.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is essential for achieving the aims of the SDGs as a whole. ESD nurtures the capacities of children to play leading roles in a sustainable future society through interdisciplinary and comprehensive approaches. In line with the National Implementation Plan on ESD and the Act on the Promotion of Environmental Conservation Activities through Environmental Education, Japan has strengthened cooperation among multiple stakeholders which are involved in ESD and environmental education so as to provide suitable education to people at home, school, the workplace, the local community, and other locations in accordance with their development levels. In order to nurture children's competencies to be the creators of sustainable societies and the world, Japan will promote SDGs-related education by improving curricula and revising teaching materials at schools in accordance with the new national curriculum 5standards that will be implemented from April 2020.
Priority Area 1 "Empowerment of All People"

International cooperation

The government of Japan has provided educational assistance in a wide range of fields including basic education, higher education and vocational training in developing countries, with a focus on nation-building and human resources development. Based on the "Learning Strategy for Peace and Growth" announced in September 2015, Japan supports the achievement of the SDGs in developing countries with the following guiding principles:

1) Educational cooperation to achieve inclusive, equitable and quality learning,
2) Educational cooperation for industrial, science & technology human resources development and sustainable social economic development, and
3) Establishment and expansion of international/regional network for educational cooperation.

Private companies have also actively engaged in the efforts. With the support of JICA, SuRaLa Net Co., Ltd. developed business in education sector collaboration with local women's groups in Sri Lanka. There is an increase in cases where Japanese companies provide educational services for the BOP class, including the informal sector of developing countries.
Japan’s presentation at High Level Political Forum (HLPF) (July 2017)

1. Japan’s vision to promote SDGs and creation of the domestic foundation
   - Japan’s vision for SDGs: to create a diverse and inclusive society where no one left behind
   - Establishment of the “SDGs Promotion Headquarters”, holding multi-stakeholders meetings such as the SDGs Promotion Roundtables and formulation of the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles
   - Cherishing the concept of **PPAP: Public Private Action for Partnership**
   - Contributing to the world where no one left behind, by combining wisdom of various stakeholders

2. Domestic and international case studies under the theme of PPAP
   - Local governments’ support for developing countries utilizing its high-technology and knowledge
     Case 1: The city of Kita-Kyushu (one of the “Future Cities”) providing international technical cooperation using its advanced water supply technology
   - Promoting maternal and child health in developing countries using the wisdom of Japan
     Case 2: Introducing BOSHITECHO, or Maternal and Child Health Handbook and its digitalization
   - Nutrition-support products and food recycling
     Case 3: AJINOMOTO - Nutritionally supporting child growth with "KoKo plus”, Japan Food Ecology Center INC. - Recycling food loss into livestock feed

3. Empowerment of children and youth, their engagement
   - The reason why Ms. Kobayashi established an international boarding high school and her passion to educate next generations
   - Importance of empowering children to become “change agents” for peace and sustainable future

4. Future efforts in focus of children and youth, mainstreaming SDGs
   - Implementation of strong and holistic policies to tackle challenges like poverty among children, youth unemployment and violence against children.
   - Promoting international cooperation based on the concept of human security.
     → Japan commits to provide approximately 1 billion dollars of assistance by 2018, focusing on children and youth, particularly in the areas of education, health, disaster risk reduction, and gender equality
   - Mainstreaming SDGs: establishing the “Japan SDGs Award”, bolstering efforts in cities and towns all over Japan, and collaborating with the entertainment industry
Japan is committed to make every effort both domestically and internationally to achieve SDGs. To this end, Japan has established the “SDGs Promotion Headquarters” that is led by Prime Minister Abe and consists of all Ministers, as well as the “SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting” as a multi-stakeholder framework in May 2016. The Headquarters formulated the “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles” and created the “Japan SDGs Award” at its past meetings, and has just held its fifth meeting on June 15, 2018 with the following outcomes.

1. Core message of the meeting: Setting SDGs as the pivot of Japan’s national strategies

- Japan intends to lead the promotion of the SDGs in the international community, building upon its strength in traditional wisdom, cutting-edge technologies and information as well as its conviction not to leave anyone behind based on the concept of human security. Especially, Japan is willing to take initiative to demonstrate how to realize a rich and vibrant future amid of globalization and population aging as Japan’s SDGs Model.

- To this end, Prime Minister Abe expressed his determination to set SDGs as the pivot of Japan’s national strategies at the 5th Meeting. Actually, Basic Policies 2018 and Economic Growth Strategy 2018, decided by the cabinet on the same day, clearly committed to promote SDGs through collaborating with the private sector and promoting international cooperation. Japan is also interested in accelerating innovative financing.

- The Headquarters decided the “Expanded SDGs Action Plan 2018” building upon the basic three directions of Japan’s SDGs Model, which were set forth as a part of the “SDGs Action Plan 2018” at the 4th meeting last December, as well as its major efforts. Prime Minister instructed all Ministers to steadily implement the Expanded Action Plan along with the above-mentioned Policies and Strategy, and to further strengthen and expand their respective efforts in the latter half of 2018.

- The GoJ aims to communicate and outreach such SDGs Model to the world, taking the opportunities of hosting the G20 and Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 2019, the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020 and others where Japan is expected to lead global agenda.
2. Promotion of concrete efforts based on the three basic directions of Japan’s SDGs Model

(1) Promotion of Society 5.0 that corresponds to SDGs

- Promote Society 5.0 and “Productivity Revolution” (that tries to materialize Society 5.0 with IoT, Big Data and AI) in order to respond to any challenges related to SDGs.
- Fully support the implementation of the revised Charter of Corporate Behaviors by the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) that commits to SDGs through promoting the Society 5.0.
  - Lead Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs in the international community, making the most of Japanese technologies. To this end, highlighted SDGs in the Integrated Innovation Strategy and the Intellectual Property Strategy Vision decided in mid-June. Also drafted the framework of “STI Roadmap for SDGs,” and shared it at the 3rd UN STI Forum held on June 5-6.
  - Launched an “Initiative for Promoting SDGs Management,” in order to support Japanese companies to manage their business and deploy them in ways conducive to SDGs.

(2) Regional vitalization driven by the SDGs

- Promote the SDGs in local areas making the most of their unique needs and strengths, and thereby vitalize local areas and make communities more resilient with the measures of disaster risk reduction, environmental-friendly and attractive.
  - Newly launched a project “SDGs Models of Local Governments” through which the entire central government intensively supports selected local governments in their SDGs implementation, and then expand success and lessons learnt to other local governments. Under this project, selected 29 municipal governments as “SDGs Future City.”
  - Communicate the local efforts for SDGs towards the world, through holding G20 Summit and ministerial meetings in 9 cities as well as bidding for Expo 2025.
  - Make the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games conducive to SDGs. To this end, highlighted the promotion of SDGs in the Sustainability Plan Version 2 together with the Plan’s guiding principle, both of which were decided in mid-June.
Empower next generations who have rich creative and communication skills and women who are the SDGs goal.

Domestically, promote steadily the “work-style reform,” women’s active role and “a revolution in human resources development,” all of which are the priority agenda for the Abe Administration.

Internationally, promote international cooperation in the major areas of the SDGs based on the concept of Human Security.

- Launch a “Next-Generation Platform for Promoting SDGs” by the end of 2018 to mobilize the power of next-generations to promote SDGs.
- Hold WAW! (World Assembly for Women) and W20 (Women’s engagement group under G20) back-to-back next spring in order to putting public and private leadership together in promoting the active role of women.
- Accelerate Japan’s efforts in the areas of health and education, especially targeting next-generations, leading up to G20 and TICAD in 2019.
- Has been contributing to "the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children" from financial and policy aspects.
- Accelerate the drafting of Japan’s National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.
Efforts in the area of education

- ESD is indispensable for the capacity building needed to achieve all 17 SDGs.
  ⇒ ESD is a foundation supporting the entire Sustainable Development Agenda.
  - Reaffirms education for sustainable development as a vital means of implementation for sustainable development, ... and as an integral element of the Sustainable Development Goal on quality education and a key enabler of all the other Sustainable Development Goals (Resolution of UN General Assembly 72/222.)

- Design UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) as the hubs to promote ESD (1,146 schools as of August 2018 in Japan)
  → Clarify the qualities and abilities that the schools wish to foster through ESD, and make efforts to formulate curricula that put emphasis on the process of learning that aims at problem solving.
  → Make efforts to improve teaching methods.
  → Engage in research and practice and endeavor to spread the ESD concepts.

- Create the UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD, which is funded by the Government of Japan (2015-)
  → Reward the outstanding efforts of individuals, institutions, organizations or other entities engaged in activities on ESD
  → Reward in particular activities that are innovative or have a high impact.
  → Nine organizations having received the award.