

JAPAN

1. Action to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

Japan is committed to economic growth, which it sees as central to poverty reduction, and to human security. It also prioritises the health and education sectors among other target areas. Japan is starting to engage in programme-based approaches in the health sector pursuing tangible impacts such as reductions in the mortality ratio. In the education sector, it focuses on quality, particularly in secondary education. Japan is increasingly emphasising enhancing the efforts of all stakeholders including donors, recipients and civil society; as well as building the “self-help” capacity of developing countries.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

“Priority Policy Issues for International Cooperation” for the fiscal year 2009 raised the following priority issues, responding to the economic crisis and public opinion: (i) support for regional cooperation to strengthen Asian countries against the economic and financial crisis; (ii) eradication of terrorism, such as the efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and peace-building and stabilization in developing countries; (iii) addressing environmental issues, including climate change; (iv) facilitating Japanese companies’ activities in developing countries, which contributes to sustainable growth of developing countries; and (v) public participation in international cooperation and further dialogue or collaboration with NGOs.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

Japan uses a 3-5 year rolling implementation plan for almost all its partner countries. These implementation plans are shared with partners and disclosed to the public. The rolling implementation plan lists and classifies each of Japan’s ODA activities including pledged and completed ones, according to priority sectors, issues and assistance program. Each project and schedule is then decided through discussions with partner countries in consistence with its development policies.