

Chapter 9

Strengthening Strategic International Development and International Contributions

Section 1

Promoting the Overseas Development of Infrastructure Systems

1 General Government Policy

The government established the “Management Council for Infrastructure Strategy” in March 2013 and compiled the “Export Strategy for Infrastructure Systems” in May of the same year, based on deliberations on government policies carried out by ministers involved, including the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. A revised version of this strategy was formulated in June 2018 with the aim of Japanese companies securing orders for overseas infrastructure systems totaling up to approximately JPY 30 trillion in 2020 (approximately JPY 10 trillion in 2010). The active promotion of the overseas development of infrastructure systems is also stated in “Growth Strategy 2018” (approved by the Cabinet in June 2017).

In May 2015, a Partnership for Quality Infrastructure incorporating the provision of approximately 110 billion dollars of Japan’s Quality Infrastructure Investment in the Asian region over the ensuing five-year period was announced by Prime Minister Abe. Through this partnership, the government aims to further mobilize private-sector funds and expertise to realize infrastructure investments that are sufficient in terms of both quality and quantity. In November of the same year, the Prime Minister announced that systemic improvements of yen loans and overseas investments and loans and other more specific measures for the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure would be carried out.

Prior to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, the Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure Initiative announced by Prime Minister Abe set out policies to expand the target area from Asia to the entire world, and to provide USD 200 billion of investments over the ensuing five-year period. The participants of the G7 Summit reached a consensus regarding the importance of the global community sharing a common understanding of the basic elements of Quality Infrastructure Investment, and agreed upon the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment.

2 Initiatives at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Japan is strengthening government-wide efforts in order to realize the high-quality infrastructure partnerships announced by Prime Minister Abe. These include overhauling expansions to the systems targeted at receiving orders. The role of the MLIT is incredibly important in the overseas development of infrastructure by Japan, and it is necessary to embark on new initiatives in accordance with current changes in the situation, such as making maximum use of the expanded system, while continuing and improving current efforts. The MLIT formulated Action Plan 2018 for Overseas Development of Japanese Infrastructure in March 2018, and has been strategically promoting overseas development of infrastructure systems based on this plan. Specifically, as described below, we are promoting three pillars of the applicable measures: (i) “upstream” planning and information sharing, (ii) mitigation of business risks, and (iii) overseas development of soft infrastructure.

Furthermore, Action Plan 2019 for Overseas Development of Japanese Infrastructure was formulated in March 2019, in which cross-sectional perspectives were organized toward the overseas development of infrastructure systems, and in addition, a review was conducted on key projects that should be focused on over the next three to four years. In addition to the specific initiatives for each sector formulated in the 2018 Action Plan, including for railways, ports, airports, urban development, real estate development, and construction, specific new initiatives were formulated for the water, disaster prevention, and road fields.

(1) 'Upstream' planning and information sharing

In order to promote participation from the concept stage of each project (upstream), Japan will appeal its technology to foreign countries, especially how it provides safety, reliability, and superior cost-effectiveness in the long run, including with respect to the operations stage. Japan will share these information by utilizing trade promotion activities carried out through joint efforts by leaders in the public and private sectors, organizing city tours for foreign ambassadors in Japan, and taking advantage of opportunities at international conferences. In addition, the Act on the Promotion of the Participation of Japanese Businesses in Overseas Social Capital Projects, which has enabled the creation of a friendly environment for the participation of Japanese companies in overseas infrastructure projects through the use of the neutrality and negotiating power of public agencies such as independent administrative bodies, as well as the use of technology and know-how accumulated through domestic projects, was put into place in August 2018, and support is being provided from upstream to downstream by taking advantage of Japanese know-how.

(i) Top Sales Promotion

In FY2018, Keiichi Ishii, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, visited six countries including Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and China, and engaged in top sales of Japanese infrastructure systems by holding discussions and exchanging opinions with top officials and cabinet ministers authorized in the same sectors in these countries. In addition, the State Ministers and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of the MLIT visited a total of 25 countries including South Africa, Colombia and Nigeria, and promoted Japan's infrastructure systems to countries with potential infrastructure demands. Additionally, visits to Japan by foreign ministers and dignitaries, the hosting of seminars, and other such opportunities were actively used to send messages of the superiority of Japanese infrastructure systems.

Column

Vigorous Promotion of Top Sales

Column

Over the course of FY2018, the MLIT minister, deputy minister, and the parliamentary vice-ministers performed top sales of Japanese infrastructure systems to government officials in partner countries.

(1) Official Trips to Philippines and Singapore by Minister Ishii

MLIT Minister Ishii visited the Philippines and Singapore from April to May 2018, and held meetings with key people in these countries.

In Philippines, he held meetings with Secretary of Transport Arthur Tugade and Secretary of Public Works and Highways Mark Villar. During the meetings, broad exchanges of opinions were held concerning cooperation in railway projects such as for the Metro Manila Subway and the North-South Commuter Railway, road projects such as for the Manila Ring Road No. 3 road construction projects, and underground drainage projects, such as for the Parañaque underground drainage route project. After the meeting with Public Works and Highways Secretary Villar, a Memorandum on Technical Cooperation for the Development of Social Capital was executed with the Department of Public Works and Highways, and it was confirmed that in the future, further enhancements will be made to the cooperative relationship between the countries based

Meeting with Secretary Villar



Source) MLIT

on this memorandum. In addition, the minister attended the completion ceremony for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase 3), the completion ceremony for the Plaridel Bypass Construction Project (Phase 2), and the groundbreaking ceremony for the Plaridel Bypass Construction Project (Phase 3).

In Singapore, he held a meeting with Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Khaw Boon Wan. At the meeting, there was a broad exchange of opinions regarding cooperation in the port and aviation sectors, with a focus on the project for a high-speed railway between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

(2) Official Trip to South Africa by MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Takahashi

In May 2018, MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Takahashi visited South Africa along with members of the Japan-Africa Infrastructure Development Association (JAIDA), launched in September 2016, and participated in the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum. Aside from the forum, a side event entitled the High Quality Infrastructure for Africa Meeting was hosted, at which the significance and necessity of high-quality infrastructure, as well as information on Japanese technology, was provided, and in addition, looking toward the TICAD7, for the promotion of the joint development of high-quality infrastructure, policies were shared for the further deepening of the cooperative relationship through the further sharing of knowledge and experience.

At a meeting with Mozambique's Minister of Transport and Communication Mesquita, who participated in the forum, top sales were conducted for the construction and operation of the Port of Nacala. At a meeting with Republic of Uganda Minister for Transport Bagiire, requests for support and cooperation were made toward the completion of the Nile Bridge (Jinja Bridge), and Minister Bagiire stated his hopes for ongoing cooperation in infrastructure.

(3) Official Trip of State Minister Akimoto to Vietnam

State Minister Akimoto attended the Grand Opening of Hai Phong International Container Terminal held in Hai Phong, Vietnam, in May 2018. At the ceremony, State Minister Akimoto stated his expectations that this would lead to further development between the countries thanks to the port now being able to accept large container ships. The port was developed through specialized technology created by a Japanese company, a technology that provides rapid construction and advanced ground improvements. Furthermore, prior to the ceremony, a meeting was held with Prime Minister Phuc, who attended as the representative for Vietnam, and it was agreed to further strengthen the cooperative relationship between the countries through transportation infrastructure projects in Vietnam.

A meeting was also held with Vice Minister of Transport Cong and Vice Minister of Construction Linh, at

The Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum



Source) MLIT

State Minister Akimoto at the ribbon cutting ceremony



Source) MLIT

which there was an exchange of opinions concerning the railways, aviation, roads, and urban development fields, and at which moves were made toward the smooth and steady implementation of projects through mutual cooperation by the countries.

(4) Official trip to Vietnam and Indonesia by Minister Ishii

In December 2018, MLIT Minister Ishii visited Vietnam and Indonesia, and held meetings with key people in the countries. In Vietnam, he held meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Dung and Minister of Transport The, which included discussions focused on railways, aviation, ports, roads, and disaster prevention, a request for an early resolution to the issue of non-payment for the Ho Chi Minh City Urban Railway Construction Project (Line 1), and a response from Deputy Prime Minister Dung and Minister of Transport The, that the procedures for payment would be started promptly. In addition, after the meeting with Minister The, a Memorandum of Cooperation on Fostering Maritime Relationship and a Memorandum of Understanding on Collaboration on Aircraft Noise Countermeasures at Airports in Vietnam were executed between the MLIT and the Ministry of Transport, and it was confirmed that the cooperative relationship between the countries will be further strengthened in the future, based on these memoranda.

In addition, in Indonesia, a meeting was held with Minister of Transportation Budi and Minister of Public Works and Public Housing Ir. Mochamad Basuki Hadimoljono, at which there were discussions toward the restoration and recovery from the earthquake and tsunami that had occurred in Indonesia, the confirmation of the situation and resolution of issues concerning cooperative projects between the countries in the railway, port, and road fields, as well as an agreement to continue to promote cooperation.

Meeting with Minister of Transportation Budi



Source) MLIT

(5) Official Trip to Turkey of MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Adachi

MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Adachi visited Turkey in December 2018 to hold policy talks in the infrastructure, disaster prevention, and tourism fields, and attended the Japan-Turkey Disaster Prevention Seminar.

At the policy talks, the intent to further strengthen the cooperative relationship between the countries in the disaster prevention field was confirmed with Turkish government officials, and furthermore, top sales were conducted regarding earthquake disaster prevention and bridge technology held by Japanese companies. A request was also made for attendance at the G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting to be held in October 2019.

The Japan-Turkey Disaster Prevention Seminar, which was held jointly by both countries' national governments, was attended by 245 government officials and private companies of both countries that are engaged in the disaster prevention field. At the opening

Public-Private Infrastructure Meeting



Source) MLIT

ceremony, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Adachi stated his hope for the further development of the cooperative relationship between the countries in the disaster prevention field.

(6) Official Trip to Tanzania and Kenya of MLIT State Minister Otsuka

In January 2019, MLIT State Minister Otsuka visited Tanzania, together with member companies of the Japan-Africa Infrastructure Development Association (JAIDA) launched in September 2016, and took part in a Public-Private Infrastructure Meeting held by the national governments of both countries. At the meeting, an overview of plans was confirmed for the Dar es Salaam Urban Transport Master Plan, the formulation of which JICA is providing support, as well as the City Master Plan in the capital city Dodoma, which is currently being formulated by Tanzania. In addition, there was an exchange of opinions between the public and private sector participants of both countries. Furthermore, the participants from Turkey were introduced to construction technology and efforts were made to promote the understanding of the host Tanzanian Government and private companies concerning high-quality Japanese infrastructure technology and an effective partnership between Japan and Turkey. In addition, a meeting was held with Minister of Works, Transport, and Communications Kamwelwe, at which top sales were conducted regarding road repair projects, and at which Minister Kamwelwe voiced his hopes for the development of local human resources and the strengthening of capacity buildings through support from Japan.

In Kenya, top sales were conducted for road and bridge projects in the vicinity of Mombasa Port through a meeting with Kenya Deputy Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development and Public Works Obure. In addition, an infrastructure seminar was held between Kenyan and Turkish companies interested in infrastructure development projects and Japanese companies, at which there was an active exchange of information and building of relationships through business matching opportunities.

Opening ceremony of the Japan-Turkey Disaster Prevention Seminar



Source) MLIT

(ii) Establishment of a System for the Promotion of Infrastructure System Export

Although demand for infrastructure is strong in emerging countries, infrastructure development and maintenance are strongly influenced by local governments. During negotiations, official creditworthiness is also required on the Japan side, and in the past, private companies have been limited in their ability to handle upstream stages of project formation. In addition, private companies lack the know-how to formulate large scale urban development master plans and water resource development project plans, to develop high-speed rail, to develop, maintain, and manage facilities for water resource development, as well as sewers and roads, and to operate airports and ports. Furthermore, the absence of a coordinating role among specialized Japanese companies has also been an issue.

In this situation, in order to strongly promote the export of infrastructure systems with both public and private sectors working in unison, it is necessary for public agencies such as incorporated administrative agencies to have neutrality and negotiating power, and furthermore, to create an environment in which Japanese companies can easily participate in overseas infrastructure projects using the technology and know-how cultivated by such public agencies over the course of domestic projects. Therefore, for the involvement of independent administrative corporations under the jurisdiction of the MLIT in the necessary overseas projects, and with the additional objective of promoting the collaboration and cooperation of independent administrative corporations and private companies, as well as other stakeholders, the Act for Promotion of the Participation of Japanese Business in Overseas Infrastructure Projects was enacted in August 2018. As an example of an investment under this Act, in December 2018, Kobe-Osaka International Port Corporation acquired

some of the shares of Cambodian company Port Authority of Sihanoukville (PAS). Upstream to downstream support was promoted by the use of Japanese know-how through the involvement of the company in the operation of Sihanoukville Port. This was a successful case of the public and private sectors working together, and has further promoted the expansion of infrastructure system exports.

(2) Mitigation of Business Risks

The global infrastructure market is forecast to expand even further, and in particular, there is a strong demand for public-private partnership (PPP) systems in which private sector funds are used. However, transportation and urban development projects require long-term maintenance, demand risk at the operation stage, and the influence of the local government. In some cases, it has been difficult for the private sector to participate alone.

In order to mitigate the business risk of companies entering transportation and urban development sector projects downstream (management and operation), Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN), which integrates investment and project participation, made decisions over the course of FY2018 to support eight projects in the port, urban development, aviation, and logistics fields (approved by the MLIT). In FY2019, 123.1 billion yen (60.6 billion yen for industrial investment, 62.5 billion yen for government guarantees) has been recorded in the Fiscal Investment and Loan Program plan, and JOIN will continue to be actively used.

Other initiatives are also being used to provide multifaceted support for infrastructure system overseas development by Japanese companies, including the use of the Overseas Construction and Safety Measures Hotline, which was established in order to support the resolution of issues faced by companies engaged in projects overseas, as well as support for the Overseas Safety Measures Seminar for providing the latest information on regional conditions and crisis management measures, the release of up-to-date information on the construction and real estate markets in foreign countries through the use of overseas construction and real estate market databases, and for expansion into third countries in cooperation with partner countries.

(3) Overseas development of soft infrastructure

Various efforts are underway to create an environment ideal for Japanese companies to participate in projects, including international standardization of Japanese technologies and systems, becoming the “de facto standard” of partner countries, supporting for institutional development of partner countries to improve the business environment for Japanese companies, and supporting for training engineers and skilled workers that contribute to sustaining administration and maintenance of infrastructure in partner countries. For example, we have implemented a pilot project for the introduction of a land appraisal system in Hai Phong, Vietnam.

(4) Initiatives in Different Countries and Regions

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, public-private partnership-based infrastructure conferences and bilateral dialogues are being continued to promote greater understanding of high-quality infrastructure investments advocated by Japan as a way to create opportunities to advance the overseas development of infrastructure systems through public-private partnerships. Overseas public-private partnership councils have also been established in different fields of infrastructure — namely “eco-cities”, water, roads, disaster prevention, rail, ports and harbours, and aviation — to facilitate sharing information on Japanese infrastructure.

For example, in developing Talks for Cooperation in Disaster Prevention in the pursuit of solutions for an emerging country dealing with disaster-prevention issues in collaboration with academic, business, and government circles in both countries, Japanese technologies would be introduced and proposed to the government of the other country through a partnership with the Japan Disaster Prevention Platform, an organization building a cooperative framework among academic, business, and government circles established in June 2014. In order to promote such projects as those involving participation in the development and operations of ports and harbours in Myanmar, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique and elsewhere, the introduction of port EDI system in Myanmar and Cambodia, and the introduction of national technical standards for port and harbour facilities in Vietnam, the development of human resources is being enriched, and information sharing, exchanges of views and other efforts through the Overseas Port and Logistics Project Council are being implemented. In addition, public-private partnership initiatives are being carried out through the Japan Conference on Overseas Development of Eco-Cities and other such bodies tasked with promoting urban development overseas, and

support was provided for Japan to have an exhibition booth at MIPIM, an international real estate show for professionals (held in Cannes, France in March 2018).

Initiatives taken by the Japan Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Overseas Construction (JAS-MOC), which was launched in June 2017 for the purpose of promoting development into the international market by small and medium-sized Japanese construction companies, have included those to host seminars in Japan, and to dispatch missions and make other efforts to help those companies sell their unique technologies and make connections with key people in foreign countries.

Discussions, collaborations, and other initiatives promoting the overseas development of infrastructure systems undertaken with different regions and countries in FY2018 are outlined below.

(i) ASEAN region

In the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which was launched at the end of 2015 in pursuit of the realization of a giant single market, emphasis on economic development through the reinforcement of regional connectivity and other efforts have produced expectations of increased activity in the movement of people, goods and other items in the future.

Amidst a growing number of requests for system development support from developing countries and other ASEAN member states, and to promote the development of human resources capable of spreading the development of systems related to land and construction, in September 2018, continuing on from last year, the MLIT brought government workers from the ASEAN member states together in one place to implement a construction policy program comprising courses on relevant systems and on-site inspection tours.

(a) Indonesia

The 9th Vice-Ministerial Level Meeting in the Transport Sector between Indonesia and Japan was held in Indonesia in November 2018, at which, with regard to the railway, port, and aviation fields, which are important cooperation projects between the countries in the transportation field, an exchange of opinions was held concerning how to resolve issues and the direction of future cooperation. In addition, the two sides confirmed their intent to continue cooperating and collaborating closely on structural aspects, such as infrastructure construction, as well as non-structural aspects, such as system establishment and human resources development.

MLIT Minister Ishii visited Indonesia in December 2018, where he held discussions with Minister of Transportation Budi and Minister of Public Works and Housing Basuki. The current awareness and issues concerning bilateral cooperative projects in disaster prevention, sewerage, railways, ports, and roads, etc., were discussed, and it was agreed to continue to promote such cooperation.

In January 2019, the sixth meeting of the Japan-Indonesia Senior Construction Officials was held in Indonesia, at which infrastructure development issues and experiences in the countries in the fields of water, disaster prevention, roads, sewage systems, housing and construction were shared, and it was agreed to continue to promote the cooperation of the companies.

In February 2019, Regional Development Bureau personnel were dispatched to Indonesia, where they conducted bridge inspections jointly with the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works and Housing. The bilateral cooperation of the countries was promoted through the use of the technology of Regional Development Bureau personnel in overseas road maintenance and management sites.

(b) Thailand

In April and October 2018, MLIT Minister Ishii met with Minister of Transport Arkhom during his visits to Japan, where they discussed policy issues in fields such as railways, urban development, ports, and roads.

In December 2018, JOIN decided to support (approved by the MLIT) a complex development project at Thailand's largest industrial park (Amata Nakorn).

In January 2019, with the objective of broadening understanding of the high quality of Japanese maintenance technology, a Corporate Technology Seminar was held to introduce the Japanese-related systems and technology of private companies.

(c) Vietnam

On May 31, 2018, memoranda were concluded with the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. In conjunction with the Japan-Vietnam summit meeting, and with the leaders of both countries in attendance, a signature and exchange ceremony was held between MLIT Minister Ishii, Minister of Construction Ha, and Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Development Thanh.

State Minister Akimoto visited Vietnam in May and August 2018, at which time he held meetings with government officials concerning policy issues in areas such as railways, roads, aviation, urban development, housing, and sewage systems. In addition, during his visit to Vietnam in May, he attended the Grand Opening of Hai Phong International Container Terminal.

In December 2018, Minister Ishii visited Vietnam, where he discussed concerning policy issues in areas such as railways, aviation, ports, roads, and disaster prevention with Deputy Prime Minister Dung and Minister of Transport The, and where Memoranda of Cooperation in the Maritime and Aviation Fields was concluded with the Ministry of Transport.

A pilot project for the introduction of a Japanese land evaluation system was conducted in Hai Phong, based on the Memorandum on Cooperation in Land-related Fields concluded in December 2017 with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

In addition, from the perspective of constructing a network in Vietnam and developing and securing human resources that will contribute to the expansion into Vietnam, joint job fairs targeted at Vietnamese technical college students were held in Ho Chi Minh in September and Hanoi in November 2018. Besides, the 7th Japan-Vietnam Construction Conference was held in November of that year, with the aim of promoting the understanding High Quality Infrastructure Development, etc., advocated by Japan.

The Vietnam Expressway Seminar and Pavement Research Group was held in March 2019 in order to promote technical cooperation in the pavement field; experts from the industrial, government, and academia sectors of Japan and Vietnam attended and exchanged opinions. In November of that year, the 12th Intergovernmental Meeting and Seminar was held regarding the sewer system field, based on the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Sewer System Field concluded with the Ministry of Construction (renewed in April 2017). In August 2018, JOIN decided to support (approved by MLIT) the Water Point Urban Development Project for the development of detached houses and public facilities, etc., in the suburbs of Ho Chi Minh City.

In March 2019, the 3rd Japan-Vietnam Vice-Ministry of Construction Level Meeting was held in Tokyo, where the issues and experiences of the countries in construction fields including specified technical intern trainees, construction cost calculation, construction quality and safety management, PPP, and construction standards were shared, and where it was agreed to further promote the cooperation between the countries.

(d) Philippines

MLIT Minister Ishii visited Philippines from April to May 2018, at which time he met with Secretary of Transportation Tugade and Secretary of Public Works and Highways Villar, and performed top sales in the fields of railway, flood control, and roads. In addition, a Memorandum on Cooperation on Social Capital Development was concluded with the Department of Public Works, and the future intent to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation between the countries based on this memorandum was confirmed.

In August 2018, with the objectives of the promotion of mutual understanding and increasing the presence of Japanese companies in the real estate field, the Japan-Philippines Real Estate Development Investment Seminar was held, at which business matching was performed between real estate companies of both countries. In addition, during policy discussions between Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (at that time) Takahashi and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chair Del Rosario, top sales were performed concerning high quality real estate development through technology and know-how unique to Japanese real estate companies, and an exchange of opinions was conducted concerning cooperation in the real estate field.

In November 2017, based on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Training of Construction Personnel concluded with the Department of Trade and Industry, a pilot project was developed with the objective of training local construction personnel toward the promotion of the overseas expansion of Japanese small and medium-sized construction companies.

(e) Malaysia

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Takahashi visited Malaysia in August 2018, where he conducted top sales concerning Japanese technology in dam reclamation and flood preliminary warning systems, advanced technology and products held by Japanese companies in the infrastructure maintenance field, and expressway toll collection systems that Japanese companies had been working on in Malaysia, and in addition, there was an exchange of opinions concerning cooperation in the water disaster prevention, road, and disaster prevention fields. In conjunction with this, the Japan-Malaysia Road Maintenance and Management and Disaster Prevention Technology Seminar was held with the objective of introducing Malaysian government agencies and university stakeholders, etc., to the status of measures and technology for road maintenance and management and water disaster prevention measures in Japan.

(f) Singapore

MLIT Minister Ishii visited Singapore in May 2018, where he held discussions with Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport Khaw, and a broad exchange of opinions was held regarding cooperation in the port and aviation fields, with a focus on the project for a high-speed railway between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

The 2nd Japan-Singapore Vice-Ministerial Transport Consultations was held in Tokyo in March 2019, at which an exchange of opinions was conducted regarding the current status of initiatives in the railway, port, and aviation transportation sectors of the countries, as well as on the direction of future cooperation, and at which the intent was confirmed for the two countries to continue close cooperation in these sectors in the future.

(g) Myanmar

State Minister Akimoto visited Myanmar in April 2018, where he attended the System Go-Live Ceremony for the Project for Port EDI for Port Modernization, which electronically integrates port-related administrative procedures, and engaged in an exchange of opinions with government officials concerning policy issues in the infrastructure and transportation sectors.

Vice-Minister for International Affairs Shinohara visited Myanmar in December 2018, where he discussed policy for cooperative projects in the aviation, railway, automobile, and port transportation sectors at the 5th Japan-Myanmar Vice-Ministerial Level Meeting in the Transport Sector, and attended the completion ceremony of the Thilawa Port.

Engineer-in-Chief Kikuchi visited Myanmar in February 2019, where he deepened cooperation between the countries in the road, construction industry, housing construction, and urban development sectors at the 6th Meeting of Myanmar-Japan Senior Construction Officials and attended the opening ceremony for the construction of the Bago Bridge.

In the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies policy research program, in order to support the development and dissemination of land-related systems, lectures concerning land policy were held for two years from FY2017, and support was provided for research in the land policy sector conducted by Myanmar government officials.

(h) Cambodia

Based on the Memorandum of Cooperation concluded with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction signed in January 2017, support was provided for the drafting of construction laws and related ordinances by dispatching experts on four separate occasions.

The 4th Intergovernmental Meeting on Sewerage was held in February 2019, based on the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Sewer Sector concluded with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (signed in February 2017).

In February 2019, with the objective of creating a friendly business environment for conducting business locally, the Cambodia Urban Development and Real Estate Development Platform was established with the Cambodian Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning & Construction, and the platform's inaugural meeting was held.

Column

Establishment and Inaugural Meeting of the Japan-Cambodia Urban Development and Real Estate Development Platform

The MLIT, with a focus on the ASEAN region, aims to establish bilateral platforms through public-private partnerships with countries that are facing various issues concerning urban development and real estate development.

As the first step, a memorandum on the establishment of the Japan-Cambodia Urban Development and Real Estate Development Platform was concluded with the Cambodian Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning & Construction (hereinafter “Ministry of Land”), and the platform’s inaugural meeting was held (a summary is provided below).

(Conclusion of Memorandum)

On February 26, 2019, with the objective of promoting the development of a business environment for Japanese companies involved in the Cambodian urban development sector, a Memorandum of Cooperation to establish a platform comprised of public and private sectors of the two countries (to meet once per year) was established by the Ministry of Land.

(Inaugural Meeting)

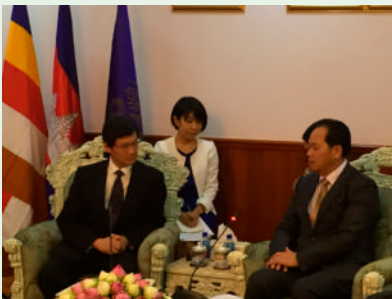
On February 27, 2019, at the Hotel Cambodiana, with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Land Chea Sopara in attendance, the inaugural meeting was held as a vice-ministerial level meeting, and a total of 250 people from the government and private sectors of both countries participated.

In the opening speech, the MLIT provided an explanation of the objectives for establishing the Platform, as well as past cases of urban development in Japan. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Land Chea Sopara explained that the three cities of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Battambang had been selected, that smart cities were being promoted, and said that he had high expectations and appreciation of the Platform.

During the meeting, presentations were given by various practitioners, the Cambodia side discussed its issues in the urban development sector and its hope for support in the development of a legal framework, and the Japan side gave presentations on its history, experience, and know-how in urban development through representatives of the Urban Renaissance Agency and the Japan Sewage Works Agency.

In addition, business matching was performed between Japanese companies and Cambodian companies.

Discussion with the Deputy Prime Minister



Source) MLIT

Conclusion of the memorandum



Source) MLIT

Government officials from the two countries who attended the meeting



Source) MLIT

(ii) South Asia**(a) India**

MLIT State Minister Akimoto visited India in May 2018, where he met with government officials and others, and exchanged opinions concerning cooperation in the infrastructure and transportation sectors, including railway projects, such as for high-speed railways, and the development of areas around high-speed railway stations.

Furthermore, at the Japan-India Summit Meeting held in October 2018, letters were exchanged concerning an ODA loan (second phase, 150 billion yen) for the Mumbai - Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project.

The 5th Japan-India Joint Working Group on Road and Road Transport was held in November 2018, at which time there was an exchange of opinions concerning high-speed railway operation and maintenance and management, and measures against the aging of mountain roads and bridges.

In March 2019, a seminar on the development of areas around stations was held for government officials, with the objective of accelerating the examination into the development of areas around stations in India.

(b) Bangladesh

The 2nd Japan-Bangladesh Joint PPP Platform Meeting was held with the PPP Authority in Tokyo in June 2018, and the 3rd meeting was held in Bangladesh in March 2019; exchanging opinions at these meetings toward the formation of each PPP project to be implemented under the governmental cooperation between two countries.

(iii) United States

Japan-US relationship has strengthened in various areas, including Japan-US Economic Dialogue launched in April 2017, and in addition, an agreement to begin negotiations for a Japan-US Trade Agreement at the Japan-US summit meeting held in September 2018.

In the infrastructure field, in particular, there was collaboration toward the actualization of the Dallas-Houston High-Speed Rail Project, -a project symbolic of Japan-US cooperation, and the joint research on the two countries on housing for elderly people. In addition, based on the memorandum of cooperation with the US Department of Transportation signed in October 2017, Japan Infrastructure Investment Forum 2018 was held in Washington D.C., US, in January 2018. Furthermore, in November 2018, the 2nd Japan Infrastructure Investment Forum was held in Indiana, US, and a place for matching for the formation of specific projects was provided. At the forum, the Japan side introduced the knowledge and know-how held by Japanese companies, and explained how this could contribute to the promotion of US infrastructure projects. The US side gave an explanation on Indiana's PPP system and projects planned in the future, and in addition, indicated its expectations for Japan.

(iv) Middle East**(a) Saudi Arabia**

In August 2018, a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Transportation Field was concluded between the MLIT and the Ministry of Transport with the objective of encouraging the participation of Japanese companies in public transport infrastructure development in Saudi Arabia.

(b) Turkey

In December 2018, MLIT Vice-Minister Adachi visited Turkey, confirmed that the cooperative relationship between the countries in the disaster prevention field would be further strengthened, and in addition, conducted top sales on the earthquake disaster prevention and bridge technology held by Japanese companies, and requested attendance at the G20 Tourism Ministers Meeting to be held in October 2019. Furthermore, partnerships between Japan and Turkey in the earthquake countermeasure and disaster prevention fields were further deepened, and with the objective of boosting the expansion of the seismic isolation and earthquake proofing technology of Japanese companies into Turkey, the Japan-Turkey Disaster Prevention Seminar was held.

Based on the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Construction Field in Third Countries concluded with the Ministry of Economy (at that time) in March 2018, in January 2019, at the 2nd Japan-Tanzania Public-Private Infrastructure Conference held in Tanzania and the High Quality Infrastructure Seminar held in Kenya, the Turkish government and Turkish construction companies joined the governments and private companies of Japan and the host country participating in

these events, at which the effective partnership between Japan and Turkey was introduced, and efforts were made to build relationships between companies.

(c) Qatar

In January 2019, during the visit of Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad al Thani to Japan, a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Transportation Sector was concluded with the MLIT and the Ministry of Transport and Communications with the objective of promoting the involvement of Japanese companies in public transport infrastructure development in Qatar.

(v) Russia

The MLIT is promoting cooperation in the urban environment, transportation, and tourism sectors based on the Cooperation Plan for Russia Living Environment Superpower, Industrial/Economic Reform, which is a comprehensive policy of the Russian government. At the Eastern Economic Forum in September 2018, the heads of state from both countries agreed to promote the further specification of the Cooperation Plan, and to develop a mutually beneficial economic relationship between Japan and Russia. In the Russian urban environment sector, of the eight items in the Cooperation Plan, cooperation was promoted for the specification of creating comfortable, clean cities that are easy to live and move about in, through the Japan-Russia Working Group on Environmental Issues. A Memorandum on Cooperation for the Formation of Smart Cities was signed in May of that year, and the ninth and tenth general meetings were held in May and August, respectively. In November of that year, with the objective of deepening efforts in Voronezh and Vladivostok, which are model cities, and further promoting cooperation between Japan and Russia, the Japan Smart City Forum was held in Moscow.

The fourth senior officials' meeting of the Japan-Russia Working Group on Transportation was held in August 2017, and the participants exchanged opinions about railways, ports, air transport, and other sectors. Furthermore, experts exchanged opinions at the second meeting of Japanese and Russian port authorities in April 2017 and the fourth meeting of Japanese and Russian railway experts in August 2017. In addition, the fifth senior officials' meeting of the Japan-Russia Working Group on Transportation was held in April 2018, and the participants exchanged opinions about railways, ports, air transport, and other sectors, and experts exchanged opinions at the third meeting of Japanese and Russian port authorities and the fifth meeting of Japanese and Russian railway experts in April 2018.

(vi) Central Asia

As a follow-up to Prime Minister Abe's visit to the Central Asia region in October 2015, and in order to promote the formation of projects using Japanese technology and know-how, a visit was made to Uzbekistan in February 2019, at which time organizations and business operators concerned exchanged opinions.

(vii) Latin America

In August 2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Yana visited Panama and Mexico, held meetings with government officials, participated in a Visit Japan tourism PR event being held in Mexico, and exchanged opinions with local Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad members.

In October 2018, Minister Ishii received a courtesy call from Peruvian Minister of Transport and Communications Trujillo, during which he conducted top sales for the Peruvian urban transport sector, and in order to promote the participation of Japanese companies in public transportation infrastructure projects in Peru, a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Transportation Sector was concluded with the MLIT and the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

In March 2019, at the request of Peru, a JICA study team provided information and exchanged opinions concerning urban transportation plans and earthquake-proof standards.

(viii) Africa

We used the Japan-Africa Infrastructure Development Association (JAIDA), which was founded based on the ministerial declaration adopted at the Japan-Africa Public-Private Infrastructure Conference held in August 2016 in Kenya to coincide with TICAD VI, to proactively disseminate information to the nations of Africa regarding Japanese technology and experience in supporting Quality Infrastructure, and to promote the establishment of relationships with both public and private entities and partner countries.

In FY2018, in order to continue the positive relationships established at Private-Public Infrastructure Conferences (Ministerial level) previously held in 11 African countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana, Madagascar, and Senegal), we hosted the 2nd Japan-Tanzania Public-Private Infrastructure Conference in Tanzania.

Furthermore, in May 2018, MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Takahashi visited South Africa, where he participated in the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum, and conducted top sales in the infrastructure sector on government officials from the various African countries that participated in the forum.

In September 2018, MLIT State Minister Akimoto visited Nigeria and concluded a memorandum of cooperation in the promotion of High Quality Infrastructure Investment with Nigerian government officials.

(ix) East Asia

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto participated in the 7th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Logistics held in Korea in July 2018, where an agreement was reached for the promotion of cooperation of the three countries in the logistics sector, including the expansion of the mutual passing of chassis, the expansion of ports in Japan, China, and Korea subject to the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET), and examination toward its expansion into ASEAN countries.

With regard to China, there were calls toward movement for third-country cooperation in relation to infrastructure development between Japan and China; the Committee for the Promotion of Japan-China Business Cooperation in Third Countries was held in September 2018, and the Japan-China Forum on Third Country Business Cooperation was held in October 2018. Japan-China cooperation in third countries is being worked on based on such actions.

Section 2

Promotion of International Cooperation and Negotiations

1 Initiatives in the Field of Economic Partnerships

(1) Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPP) Agreement

The TPP Agreement constitutes an economic partnership agreement forming the basis of rules governing trade and economic activities in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as being a pillar for a Japanese growth strategy to help the Asia-Pacific region grow. Japan participated in negotiations with 11 countries from July 2013 onward, namely Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Peru, the United States, and Vietnam. The parties of the partnership reached an agreement in principle in October 2015. Japan signed the agreement in February 2016, and the National Diet approved it in December of that year. Although the USA withdrew from the agreement in January 2017, 11 countries reached an agreement in principle for a new TPP Agreement (the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)) in November of that year. Japan signed the agreement in March 2018, and the National Diet approved it again in June of that year. In October of that year, six countries, including Japan, completed domestic procedures and notified New Zealand, the deposit country. As a result of this, the TPP Agreement entered into effect on December 30, 2018. In the government procurement sector, general competitive bidding will be newly mandated in Malaysia, Vietnam and elsewhere, a change that is expected to lead to the promotion of overseas development of Japanese infrastructure systems.

(2) Japan-EU EPA, RCEP and Other Economic Partnership Agreements and Free Trade Agreements (EPA/FTA)

Japan is strategically promoting economic partnerships with the Asia-Pacific region, the East Asia region, Europe, and elsewhere. As of March 2019, EPAs with 17 countries and regions have been put into effect, signed, or are otherwise under negotiations with a view to eventually being concluded, an example of which is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership for the East Asia region (RCEP). These arrangements will serve to strengthen the international competitiveness of Japan's transport, construction, and other industries, promote international development and the opening of the service sector in partner countries, including by way of the abolition or deregulation of foreign capital restrictions, and promote the expansion of participation opportunities relating to government procurement.

The decision was made to start negotiations for the Japan-EU EPA in March 2013. Both parties reached an agreement

in principle in July 2017, and finalized the agreement in December of that year. The agreement was signed in July 2018, and approved by the Diet in December of that year. In December 2018, upon passing through the approval and decision of the European Parliament and Council, both Japan and the EU notified the other party to state that the domestic procedures had been completed. As a result of this, the Japan-EU EPA entered into effect on February 1, 2019. As for the main content of the agreement related to the MLIT, the agreement calls for efforts to improve market access in both Japan and the EU in the railway sector of government procurement. The agreement also includes provisions for cooperation between Japan and the EU toward promoting the international harmonization of standards and certification systems in the United Nations for automobile environmental and safety standards.

Sixteen countries, including the ASEAN countries, China, South Korea, and Australia, are participating in the RCEP negotiations. These negotiations began in May 2013 and twenty-five negotiation sessions have been held as of March 2019.

(3) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Discussions among interested countries and regions, including Japan, have been undertaken with a view to enacting a new Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) in order to further liberalize trade in service sectors. Negotiations began in June 2013.

2 Contributions to and the Strategic Use of International Organizations

(1) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC is a framework for economic cooperation through which activities to promote trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation, economic and technical cooperation, and other such objectives are carried out to promote the sustainable growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. The MLIT is proactively involved in ministers' meetings and working groups that pertain to APEC's transportation and tourism sectors.

In the transportation sector, meetings of the transportation ministers to facilitate the flow of goods and people and support trade and investment within the given area are held.

At the 10th APEC Transport Ministers' Meeting in Papua New Guinea in October 2017, discussions were held on the topic of regional connectedness through robust, sustainable transportation and innovation, and Japan gave a presentation on the topic of promoting PPP in infrastructure projects; these discussions were summarized in the joint ministerial declaration.

In addition, the 46th meeting of the APEC Transportation Working Group, which deals with the transport sectors of APEC members, was held in Peru in October 2018. Liberalization, streamlining, security, safety and other factors of the transport sectors in APEC regions were discussed at this meeting.

Domestically, in light of the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment adopted at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, the ministries in charge of infrastructure in APEC member countries and regions were invited to the APEC Tokyo Conference on Quality Infrastructure in March 2019 in an effort to foster understanding and promote smart cities and the international standardization of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment in APEC member nations. This contributed to the overseas dissemination of quality infrastructure, as well as the promotion of smart cities within the APEC region.

(2) Cooperation with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

In an effort to further promote Quality Transportation in ASEAN, the MLIT is implementing various cooperation projects for overland, maritime and air transport under the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, a cooperative framework for the transportation sectors in Japan and ASEAN established in 2003. The projects include joint research on paving technologies and overload management technologies in support of global road networks, joint research regarding port and harbour technology, re-surveying of channels and improvement of nautical charts for the Singapore Strait and Strait of Malacca, training of VTS controllers at regional training centers in ASEAN, and support for air transport security systems. The "ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting" is held every year to monitor the progress of current projects and to discuss new projects and future direction.

At the 16th ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2018, the ASE-

AN-Japan Transport Partnership Work Plan for 2018-2019, which is a specific implementation plan of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, was approved, as well as two new cooperation projects: the Road Traffic Safety Project and the Mobile Big Data Utilization Project. In addition, the ASEAN-Japan Green Logistics Best Practices Collection, the ASEAN-Japan Cold Chain Logistics Guidelines, the Road Pavement Technical Materials for ASEAN International Arterial Roads, and the ASEAN-Japan Regional Action Plan for Aviation Security (RRMAS) were approved as project outcomes.

At the ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting held in Singapore in November 2018, the holding of the ASEAN Smart City Network (ASCN) High Level Tokyo Meeting in partnership with Singapore in 2019 was mentioned in the meeting chair's speech, and the cooperation of Japan toward the realization of initiatives related to smart cities in ASEAN was confirmed.

(3) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The MLIT participates in the activities of multiple OECD organizations, including the International Transport Forum (ITF), the Transport Research Centre (TRC), the Shipbuilding Committee, the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC), and the Tourism Committee.

The ITF hosts annual ITF Transport Ministers' Meetings, at which transport ministers from 59 countries play a central role in annual meetings to facilitate high-level and open discussions with world-renowned experts and businesspeople regarding transport policy. Previous topics discussed include climate change in the transport sector, autonomous driving, and infrastructure financing. At a ministers' meeting in May 2018, discussions based on a theme of safety and security of transportation were held, with an exploration of various perspectives. Participants discussed matters such as response and cooperation with climate change countermeasures in the transport sectors in light of COP23 and the progression of digitalization.

The TRC conducts surveys and researches on policy issues commonly applicable to member countries. Japan also participates in a working group focused on smart use of roads proposed by Japan and which have been adopted. A workshop was held in Tokyo in October 2018, at which discussions were held from various perspectives concerning pinpoint measures based on big data analysis and traffic management for the optimization of road networks.

The Council Working Party on Shipbuilding (WP6) is the only multilateral forum for shipbuilding and plays an important role in the policy coordination regarding the international shipbuilding market. At present, the shipbuilding industry is facing the problem of global excess capacity, and the WP6 has discussed ways to address this problem and to establish a new Shipbuilding Instrument to eliminate distorting public measures.

The RDPC proactively conducts reviews of the policies of member countries with respect to land and regional policies, as well as studies on the improvement of productivity in cities and regions. In March 2019, MLIT Councilor Yuki attended a ministerial meeting, and participated in discussions concerning the methodology of regional and urban policies based on global medium- to long-term changes (megatrends).

(4) United Nations (UN)

(i) International Maritime Organization (IMO)

IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that establishes international rules on the safety of ships and marine environment protection. Japan actively participates in the activities of this organization as a major shipping and shipbuilding country, and the chairs of the committee for the adoption of environmental treaties and the sub-committee for deliberating requirements related to ship equipment are both Japanese. In FY2018, Japan actively contributed to the discussion about international rules such as safety standards for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), the formulation of measures for the enhancement of fire safety on passenger ships, and the adoption of the Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, including the long-term target of phasing out GHG emissions from international shipping as soon as possible in this century.

(ii) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

ICAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that has set forth certain rules and other stipulations for the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation and the sound and economic operations of international air transportation. Japan's financial contributions are third among member states FY2018 and Japan, as a Governing Council state under PART I (States of chief importance in air transport), actively participates in various ICAO activities and contributes to the development of international civil aviation.

(iii) UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is a UN funding and planning agency specializing in human settlement issues. Japan has been an active council participant since the foundation of UN-Habitat, and has taken advantage of its knowledge and record of accomplishment on improving land, regional, and residential environments to contribute to improving human settlement issues worldwide, with particular focus on the population explosion and rapid urbanization in Asia.

In the period from July to August 2018, UN-Habitat, Fukuoka City, and the MLIT worked together to hold three meetings related to national land and urban policy in Fukuoka, including the International Symposium on Urban and Territorial Planning, under the title of Global Action 2018 - Sustainable Urbanization Week. During this period, various stakeholders in territorial and urban planning from around the world, including government and local government officials, international organizations, and experts, met together and held discussions toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a national and city level, and Japan also expressed its intent to make a contribution through SPP initiatives.

(iv) UN efforts regarding water and disaster prevention

The MLIT participated in the 11th and 12th meetings of the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) and the International Symposium on Water and Disasters, where we discussed the efforts of the global community to increase global awareness of water-related disasters, shared experiences and knowledge, and advanced policies in each country. In addition, the UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters, which is supported by Japan, was mentioned for the first time in the interim evaluation resolution entitled UN International Decade for Action on Water adopted by the UN in November 2018. In this, attention will be devoted by UN member countries as an important international initiative for water-related disasters.

(v) Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Given the adoption of sustainable development goals (SDGs) at the UN Summit in September 2015, the Japanese Sustainable Development Goals Promotion Headquarters, which is chaired by Prime Minister Abe, determined indicators for implementing SDGs in Japan (SDG implementation indicators) in December 2016, and in December 2018 announced the SDGs Action Plan 2019. To realize sustainable development inside and outside Japan, the MLIT will also implement efforts toward the achievement of SDGs through related measures such as the promotion of Quality Infrastructure Investment.

(vi) UN efforts regarding geospatial information

Japan participates in the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which is a part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and uses its experience to contribute to the establishment of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) and other efforts. In addition, Japan is the Vice President of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), as well as the Chair of its Working Group for Geodetic Reference Frame, and has contributed to the UN's work regarding geospatial information.

(5) World Bank (WB)

At international events held in November 2018 and January and February 2019 by the World Bank for key people involved in urban development in various countries, the MLIT introduced Japanese knowledge of urban development in order to effectively share information about Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment with infrastructure officials in other countries.

(6) Conference on African Development (TICAD)

In August 2016 at TICAD VI, the first TICAD conference held in Africa, the Nairobi Declaration, which mentioned the importance of Quality Infrastructure Investment, was adopted. In light of this declaration and the Leaders' Statement for the Promotion of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment adopted by Cabinet ministers from Japan and various African countries at the Japan-Africa Public-Private Infrastructure Conference held to coincide with TICAD VI, we are promoting efforts such as these public-private infrastructure conferences to promote Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment in

Africa. To prepare for TICAD VII, which is scheduled to be held in Japan in 2019, we will accelerate efforts to promote understanding of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment.

3 Multilateral and Bilateral International Negotiations and Collaborative Initiatives in Different Sectors

(1) National Land Policy Sector

In FY2018, in light of international agreements from Habitat III regarding the strategic promotion of a national land policy, we established The Spatial Planning Platform involving the networking of Asian nations, government officials, international organizations, and other stakeholders, in which knowledge is shared and issues are resolved in relation to the national land and regional policy through meetings and website, in order to proactively promote the overseas deployment of Japanese national spatial planning and regional policy.

(2) Urban Sector

In May 2018, policy discussions were held with the EU regarding urban policy.

In response to a request from the Myanmar Ministry of Construction, we provided support for the development of a law for urban and regional development planning legislation, conducted a study on the improvement of urban function through the use of public land in the city of Yangon, in the Yankin Region, and also implemented technical cooperation through the dispatch of JICA experts.

In addition, in response to a request from the Thai Ministry of Transportation, we implemented technical cooperation through the dispatch of JICA experts to Thailand, with the objective of realizing the Ban Su Development Plan.

(3) Water Sector

Based on the common understanding of water problems as global-scale problems, discussions toward the resolution of these problems are taking place at international conferences and other venues. MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto took part as a panelist in the Environmental and Water Leaders Forum held in Singapore in July 2018. At the forum, where the environmental economy was being newly advocated for the management of natural resources in tight supply, as an example of practice in the water sector, information was provided using examples of efforts in Japan toward the securing of a sound water cycle. In addition, the 13th Japan-US Flood Control and Flood Resources Management Meeting was held in the US (Washington) in May 2018, and new water resource policies were introduced and discussed under the premise of risks, including critical droughts and major disasters, caused by climate change, as well as the aging of facilities, etc. At the International Water Association (IWA) World Conference held in Japan (Tokyo) in September 2018, MLIT Minister Ishii stated that, in areas where water environment problems were appearing, it was necessary to engage not only in the structural maintenance of sewer equipment, but also to conduct non-structural maintenance in the form of human resource development and the legal system, etc. The 28th Japan-China River and Water Resources Exchange Meeting was held in Japan in December 2018, and discussions were held concerning the latest initiatives related to water resources and water circulation, the flow of funds for dams, construction projects, and the use of rainwater.

In addition, in water resources sector, "Council for Activation of Expand Overseas of Japanese Business Operators in Water Resources Sector", consist of related industry groups and government agencies, was established with "Japan Water Agency"(JWA) as secretariat. Furthermore, the JWA also conducted survey for project development in water resources sector in partnership with related organizations. Besides that, it has contributed to dissemination and promotion of "Integrated Water Resources Management" (IWRM) in partnership with "Network of Asian River Basin Organizations" (NARBO). In addition to this, the Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWaP) was established with the objective of increasing awareness of sewage management in Asia, and a cooperative relationship has been built between relevant organizations, including participating countries, international organizations, and the Japan Sewage Works Agency, in order to contribute to the achievement of the SDG targets (Target 6.3 "Halving the proportion of untreated wastewater") adopted at the United Nations summit.

(4) Disaster Management Sector

To reduce the damage of water disasters around the world, the MLIT disseminated Japan's experiences and technology and made efforts to establish international solidarity regarding the strengthening of water disaster prevention in order to build a consensus that disaster prevention is the key to sustainable development. We engaged in coordination between industry, academia and government between Japan and Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar and other countries dealing with disaster-related issues to deploy efforts toward Disaster Prevention Collaboration Dialogues in each country to strengthen cooperative relations in the disaster prevention sector during normal times. We are currently moving ahead with the formulation of projects that use Japanese technology in the fields of dam rehabilitation, which makes effective use of existing dams, and crisis management water level gauges. Japan held bilateral meetings with the United States and China on the river and disaster prevention sector, during which the countries shared issues they were facing, and exchanged opinions on the resolution of these. The International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) has provided technical cooperation and international assistance to countries and regions vulnerable to water-related disasters through various efforts such as developing an integrated flood analysis system (IFAS) and rainfall-runoff-inundation (RRI) model, researching risk management, implementing human resource development programs, including doctoral and masters courses, participating in UNESCO, Asian Development Bank, and World Bank projects, and acting as the secretariat of the International Flood Initiative (IFI).

In addition, in the sediment control sector, we have hosted bilateral conferences regarding sediment control technology with Italy, South Korea, Switzerland and Austria, and have implemented technical cooperation through the dispatch of JICA experts, training, and other efforts for warnings and evacuations from landslide disasters, land-use regulations, and the like.

(5) Road Sector

Japan continues to participate in various technical committees of the World Road Association (PIARC), and is endeavoring to actively disseminate information and make an international contribution. We held the PIARC Annual Council Meeting in Yokohama in October 2018 as the host country, where over 140 road administration officials from 47 countries around the world gathered to exchange opinions. At the meeting, on the topic of the Utilization of Innovative Technology for Road Maintenance, the latest trends in each country were reported and an exchange of opinions was held, including on new initiatives utilizing ICT, big data, and AI, as well as preventive measures based on scientific verification, from a traditional ex-post approach. In addition, under the framework of the Japan-ASEAN transportation partnership, "Technical Reference for Road Pavement Technologies in ASEAN International Corridors" was approved at the 16th Japan-ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting held in November 2018, with the results of the joint research into pavement technology and overload countermeasures conducted with the objective of the development of an international road network as high quality infrastructure in the ASEAN region.

(6) Housing and Building Sector

Japan attended the world conference of the Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC), and made other efforts to exchange information with relevant countries concerning global trends in building codes and the like.

We held bilateral meetings with Germany and China at which we exchanged information about housing market trends, housing policy, and energy-efficient construction.

Broad technical cooperation was provided to Myanmar, Kazakhstan, and Cambodia by dispatching JICA experts and holding seminars.

(7) Railway Sector

In FY2018 as well, we took part in initiatives for bilateral cooperation, including holding the Joint Committee on the Indian High-Speed Railway and the Japan-UK Railway Cooperation Meeting, as well as through technical cooperation involving the dispatch of JICA experts.

In addition, we actively took part in initiatives to introduce the strength of Japanese railway technology, such as by holding international forums and seminars by the Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS) and the International High-Speed Rail Association (IHRA).

(8) Automotive Sector

Based on the ASEAN-Japan New Cooperative Program on Comprehensive Vehicle Safety and Environment Measures Including Development of Technical Regulations and Establishment of a Type Approval System for Vehicles endorsed at the 13th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting in 2015, in December 2018, we hosted a Public-Private Joint Forum for the Asian region, at which we exchanged information about activities for global harmonization and mutual recognition in the Asia region. In addition, continuing from 2017 and based on the program, we implemented and exchanged pertinent information and opinions regarding a program in ASEAN to improve their automobile transportation safety and environmental conservation policy formulation process.

(9) Maritime Sector

In the maritime sector, in addition to responding to the IMO global agenda, Japan has also responded to the bilateral agenda through Director-General-level conferences. In FY2018, Japan held Director-General-level conferences with China and India in August and January respectively, at which information was shared and views were exchanged toward the resolution of various issues in the maritime sector. In addition, the Memorandum of Cooperation on Fostering Maritime Relationship was concluded in December 2018 between the MLIT and the Viet Nam Ministry of Transport.

In addition, a field survey for the joint hydrographic survey of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore began in March 2018. Furthermore, based on the ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Strategy approved at the ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting, seminars for local travel agencies were held in Indonesia, and as part of the project for encouraging the use of environmentally friendly ships in ASEAN, the second meeting of "Expert Group on Green Ships (EGGS)" for the development of the ASEAN Green Ship Strategy was held in Malaysia in August 2018.

(10) Ports Sector

The MLIT exchanges information about port policy promotes cruise industry and engages in other activities at meetings such as the Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting and meetings of APEC Transportation Working Group. We also emphasize collaboration with the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) and the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) - the Japanese government is a member of both - and engage in exchange with key government officials from other countries and proactively participate in the activities of various research committees. We are particularly proactive in PIANC with efforts toward the overseas deployment and international standardization of Japanese technical standards.

In October 2018, the General Authority for Suez Canal Economic Zone joined the Memorandum of Understanding in Relation to the Cooperation on the Development of LNG as a Marine Fuel (signed by eight port authorities in seven countries in October 2016; three authorities from three countries later signed the memorandum in July 2017), comprising 12 port authorities from 11 countries, the international network of LNG bunkering ports was further strengthened.

(11) Aviation Sector

In October 2018, the 55th Conference of Director-Generals of Asia-Pacific Civil Aviation was held in Fiji. At the conference, we exchanged opinions about efforts by countries in the Asia-Pacific region toward aviation safety, aviation security, air traffic control and other general aviation matters.

In addition, in February 2019, the fourth meeting of the Japan-France Cooperative Working Group was held in Paris-Toulouse in accordance with a memorandum of understanding concerning technical cooperation in the civil aviation sector that has been concluded with France, and it was decided to advance cooperation including regular meetings to be held in the future.

(12) Logistics Sector

The 7th China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics was held in Korea in July 2018, where the three countries agreed to promote trilateral cooperation in the logistics sector, including the expansion of mutual chassis, increase in the number of ports participating in the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET) among the three countries, and research toward the expansion of its application to other partners such as ASEAN countries.

Discussions on enhancing the logistics environment are also being carried out in the context of bilateral logistics pol-

icy dialogue under the framework of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership; discussions on logistics policy were held with Vietnam in September 2018 and Cambodia in January 2019. In addition, in May 2018, for the securing of human resources on logistics sector in Laos, a logistics human resources development project was held for university students majoring in logistics human resource development and for government officials from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, and a logistics human resources development project was held for university students majoring in logistics operation and networking in Vietnam in July 2018.

Furthermore, to promote the use of the Trans-Siberian Railway as the third means of transport after marine and air, pilot transport project of cargo by the Trans-Siberian Railway was conducted jointly with the Russian government during the period from August to December 2018.

(13) Geospatial Information Sector

The MLIT provides support to ASEAN member states and others for the introduction of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and the comprehensive operation of a network of GNSS CORSSs. In Thailand, in light of the cooperative agreement that resulted from the Japan-Thailand Summit Meeting held in 2015, the MLIT has provided support for the development of a network of GNSS CORSSs by sharing knowledge on the utilization of GNSS CORSSs and by dispatching experts. In Myanmar, we are participating in the Yangon Mapping Project, which aims to establish GNSS CORSSs and create topographic maps of the precincts of Yangon, and in September 2018, we conducted technical training on GNSS CORSSs at the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan. Furthermore, we held cooperative conference about surveying and mapping with South Korea, and exchanged information about surveying technology and projects.

(14) Meteorological and Earthquake/Tsunami Sector

Under the framework of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Japan has provided the world meteorological community with various information including tropical cyclone forecasts taking advantage of its advanced technologies as well as exchanged meteorological data and technical information. Also, under the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Japan has provided the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory to various countries in the region to contribute to tsunami disaster mitigation.

(15) Coast Guard Sector

Coordination and cooperation among coast guard agencies in various fields — including search and rescue as well as maritime security measures — are being actively promoted through partnership of the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (formed by six countries consisting of Japan, Canada, China, South Korea, Russia, and the United States), the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (21 Asian countries and one region), and bilateral top-level meetings, as well as joint exercises.

The Japan Coast Guard is also proactively participating in various international organizations by formulating standards concerning the production of nautical charts through committees of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), coordinating for the Northwest Pacific Ocean region through the Cospas-Sarsat Programme, conducting investigations into VDES^{Note} development through committees of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), and dispatching staff members from the Japan Coast Guard to the Information Sharing Center based on the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). In addition, international contributions are being made through different initiatives, such as those that help improve the capabilities of the coast guard sector in developing countries.

In addition to this, to support the improvement in capabilities for the security, rescue, environmental disaster prevention, maritime traffic safety, and nautical chart creation sectors of countries along the Indo-Pacific coast, experts in Japan Coast Guard with specialist knowledge have been dispatched to each country, personnel of coast guard agencies in each country have been invited to Japan, and support has been provided to improve capabilities through initiatives conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Nippon Foundation.

Furthermore, through such efforts as promoting interaction and fostering mutual understanding among coast guard

Note Short for VHF Data Exchange System

organizations throughout Asia, and in order to create a common awareness of the importance of collaboration and cooperation between countries toward ensuring safety at sea and advancing the concept of “maritime order governed by law and rules and not by coercion”, we have accepted young senior officials from coast guard organizations throughout Asia into the Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program, a master’s degree program for maritime safety and security policy established in October 2015.

In addition, in recent years more and more maritime security organizations have been established, and as there is demand for the improved quality and increased quantity of technical guidance support, the Japan Coast Guard established the Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team: MCT in October 2017 as a dedicated department for the provision of support to improve capabilities. The team consists of ten members and is managed by the Japan Coast Guard International Cooperation Promotion Officer; as of the present, MCT personnel have been dispatched 21 times to nine countries. In the future, we will continue to provide support to improve ability in accordance with requests from the coast guard agencies of each country.

Figure II-9-2-1

Maritime law enforcement training for the Philippine Coast Guard, using high-speed small boats, etc.



Source) MLIT

Section 3 Initiatives for International Standardization

(1) Efforts for International Standardization

To promote high safety and environmental performance automobiles early and cost efficiently, Japan is actively participating in activities of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP29) to promote the international harmonization of safety and environmental regulations, and is also promoting the international spread of Japanese automobiles with superior safety, and environmental features, and new technology through participation in these activities. In order to promote such activities, the “Action Plan for the Internationalization of the Regulation and Certification System” with its four pillars of: 1) Strategic international standardization of Japanese technology and regulations, 2) Realization of international whole vehicle type approval system (IWVTA), 3) Promoting participation of Asian countries in international harmonization of regulations, and 4) Establishing a framework to handle globalization of regulations and certification, is being steadily realized to promote the internationalization of automobile regulation and certification systems.

(2) International Standardization and Other Initiatives in the Railway Sector

As Europe actively promotes the international standardization of European standards, the possibility of significant obstacles arising in the overseas expansion of railway systems is increased if Japan’s superior technology is excluded from the scope of international standards. Because this will affect global competitiveness in the railway sector, it is important to actively promote international standards in railway technology. For this reason, the Railway Technical Research Institute’s Railway International Standards Center, which is the centralized organization that handles railway-related international standards, works proactively to further advance railway safety and the expansion of the railway industry.

As a result, Japan has played a central role in contributing to the proposals of individual standards and committee and working group activities in the Technical Committee for Railway Applications (TC269) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), as well as the Technical Committee for Electrical equipment and systems for railways (TC9) of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and has secured successful results. As Japan’s presence in these international conferences continues to rise, we are working on promoting international standardization with respect to railway technology.

The National Traffic Safety and Environment Laboratory of the National Agency for Automobile and Land Transport Technology (Independent Administrative Institution), the first domestic certification body of international standards in the railway sector, has acquired solid certification experience following the establishment of the Railways Certification Office, and contributes to the overseas expansion of Japan’s railway systems. On May 16, 2018, in regard to the RAMS

Standard, which is a major international standard for the overseas development of railway systems, we were accredited as a third-party certification body by the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation Accreditation Center (NITE) (Independent Administrative Agency).

(3) International Standards Regarding Ships and Seafarers

In order to aim to reduce the environmental impact and improve the safety of shipping and help disseminate excellent Japanese energy-efficiency technologies, Japan has spearheaded discussions in the context of the formulation of standards under the SOLAS Convention^{Note 1}, MARPOL Convention^{Note 2}, and STCW Convention^{Note 3}, all of which have been adopted under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Moreover, the Japan Coast Guard has participated in discussions on international standards applicable to nautical charts, nautical publications, and navigational warnings as hosted by working groups established under the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Furthermore, in order to ensure the safety of vessel traffic and increase the operating efficiency of vessels, we are leading the discussion in the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) e-Navigation Committee regarding the international standardization of VDES, a new maritime data communication system.

(4) International Harmonization of Standards and Certification Systems in the Civil Engineering and Building Sectors

In the civil engineering, building, and housing sectors, we are working to promote the international harmonization of standards and certification systems by operating programs for certifying imported building materials in terms of performance and for approving rating agencies, obtaining technical cooperation from organizations like JICA, and participating in the establishment of ISO standards for design and construction technology. Likewise, as part of the efforts to incorporate Japan's accumulated technology in international standards, discussions are in progress to develop and revise domestic technical standards by taking into account trends in the creation of international standards.

(5) International Standardization of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

In order to promote the development of efficient applications, international contributions, and the development of related industries in Japan, the international standardization of ITS technology is progressing within international standardization bodies, including ISO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In particular, we are participating in the Technical Committee on International Standardization of the ITS (ISO/TC204) and have been engaged in standardization activities concerning the use of probe data gathered with the ETC2.0 service. In addition, Japan has spearheaded discussions as co-chair or deputy chair of various subcommittees of the United Nations' World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP29), regarding standards for automated driving, etc. In regard to automatic steering, which is the key technology for automatic driving, lane change standards entered into effect in October 2018, and we have earnestly promoted the formulation of international standards, including beginning studies on the formulation of standards for lane maintenance while in auto drive mode.

(6) Standardization of Geographic Information

For the purpose of ensuring compatibility for the interoperability between different Geographic Information Systems (GIS) dealing with geospatial information, Japan is actively participating in the formulation of international standards by the ISO Technical Committee for Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC211). Likewise, we are working on standardizing domestic geographic information.

(7) Mutual Recognition of International Technical Qualifications

Within the APEC Architect Project and the APEC Engineer Project, we have conferred mutual designations on people qualified to produce architectural designs and qualified engineers within APEC who have satisfied certain requirements. Within the APEC Architect Project, we are promoting the mobility of persons qualified to produce architectural designs

Note 1 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

Note 2 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

Note 3 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.

through our signing of bilateral memorandums of understanding for mutual acceptance with Australia and New Zealand, and efforts such as our participation in the APEC Architect Central Council.

(8) Sewage Sector

Presently, our proactive and leading participation in the Technical Committee on the Water-reuse (ISO/TC282), Technical Committee on Sludge Recovery, Recycling, Treatment, and Disposal (ISO/TC275), and Working Group on Stormwater Management (ISO/TC224/WG11) represents efforts to promote the deployment of high-quality Japanese sewage technology overseas.

(9) Promotion of the International Standardization of Logistics Systems

We are promoting the standardization and international standardization of Japanese logistics systems, thereby contributing to improved logistics environments in Asian distribution networks and strengthening the international competitiveness of Japanese logistics companies, based on the services and know-how those companies have, which is of the world's highest level, including cold chain and delivery services. Under the framework of the Japan-ASEAN Transport Cooperation, the Japan-ASEAN Cold Chain Logistics Guidelines were approved at the Japan-ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting held in November 2018 as one of the results of the Japan-ASEAN Cold Chain Logistics Project, which was started in 2017.