

# **Briefing Paper submitted by the Government of Japan to the Annual MASG Meeting (September 5, 2012)**

## **Strategic Approach and Priorities**

- Japan has been contributing to a wide range of areas including mine clearance and victim assistance under its "Zero New Victims" program, while giving due consideration to the differing needs and conditions of each affected country.
- It has been providing assistance primarily to those heavily affected countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, such as Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Croatia, DR Congo, Georgia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and Sudan, giving particular emphasis on the following three areas:
  - **Capacity Building:** Japan places importance on capacity building. Assistance to capacity building of affected countries is an effective way of technical transfer. (Example: In Cambodia, through the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), Japan has not only extended monetary aid to clearance activities but also transferred technical skills by dispatching experts in information systems and logistics. Japan also supported CMAC for its research and development activities on demining equipment.)
  - **Triangle Cooperation:** Japan is a strong promoter of triangle (or South-South) cooperation scheme. For example, in 2009, Japan extended financial and technical assistance to Colombia's Presidential Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines (PAICMA) for a project to strengthen its organizational structure. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), triangular cooperation was promoted among Japan, Cambodia and Colombia. Colombia received help from CMAC of Cambodia, which has extensive experience and knowledge in management and policy implementation. Japan has also promoted triangle cooperation between Cambodia and Afghanistan, and between Cambodia and Lao PDR, through financing training programs.
  - **Community-based Projects from Human Security perspective:** From the perspective of Human Security which attaches priority to the protection of communities and their empowerment, Japan also extends assistance to community-based projects in order to assist in the development phase of a community after the end of the demining process. (Example: In Cambodia, Japan offered assistance to a demining project through the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), followed by construction projects of infrastructure and school building carried out by Japanese enterprise Komatsu.)

## **Funding Trends**

- The total amount of assistance to Mine Action in the financial year 2011 including cluster munitions and other UXOs amounted to 32.1 million USD, and the total amount of assistance accumulated to around 468million USD in 42 countries and regions.
- Japan has been a strong supporter for the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) since its establishment in 1997 and has worked with UNMAS hand in hand

in mine action activities all over the world. In 2011, Japan was the second largest donor to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (VTF), managed by UNMAS. Through the VTF, Japan not only supports mine clearance projects but also assists projects such as the development of cluster munitions identification tool and a study of Signature Metal Detectors suitable for explosive sub-munitions clearance undertaken by the GICHD.

- In the FY2011, Japan contributed around 8.6 M US dollars to the VTF, including support to mine clearance and mine risk education programs in Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, DR Congo, and the Republic of Congo.

### **Implementation of International Treaties**

- As State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Japan supports UXO and landmine affected countries to implement their treaty obligations.
- With the 2014 Third Review Conference of the AP Mine Ban Convention approaching, Japan, together with the States Parties of the Convention, will continue to support efforts to implement the Convention and to translate the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 to concrete action, and monitor its progress.
- As an example of Japan's support to States Parties of the Ottawa Convention to implement their treaty obligations, Prime Minister Noda announced during a bilateral summit meeting with Mozambique held in February 2012, that Japan would consider further assistance to Mozambique to achieve its clearance deadline in March 2014. The Government of Japan decided to provide 164 million yen, as grant aid for peace-building, to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for "Mine Action Programme" in Mozambique. Notes to this effect were exchanged on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- At the Third Meeting of the States Parties of the CCM in Oslo next week (September 11-14), Japan will co-host a side event on the first day of the Meeting with the government of Lao PDR to introduce UXO clearance projects in the Lao PDR. A Japanese UXO expert who works with UXO Lao and a Senior Advisor on Peace-building from Japan International Cooperation Agency will make a brief presentation. Japan has been providing assistance for Lao PDR's UXO clearance and has provided a total amount of 14.5 M dollars since 1999. In 2011, Japan has provided a grant and technical assistance worth of 11.1 M dollars which include provision of equipment and third country training program for South-South cooperation with CMAC.