

Fighting Terrorism through Assistance for Afghanistan

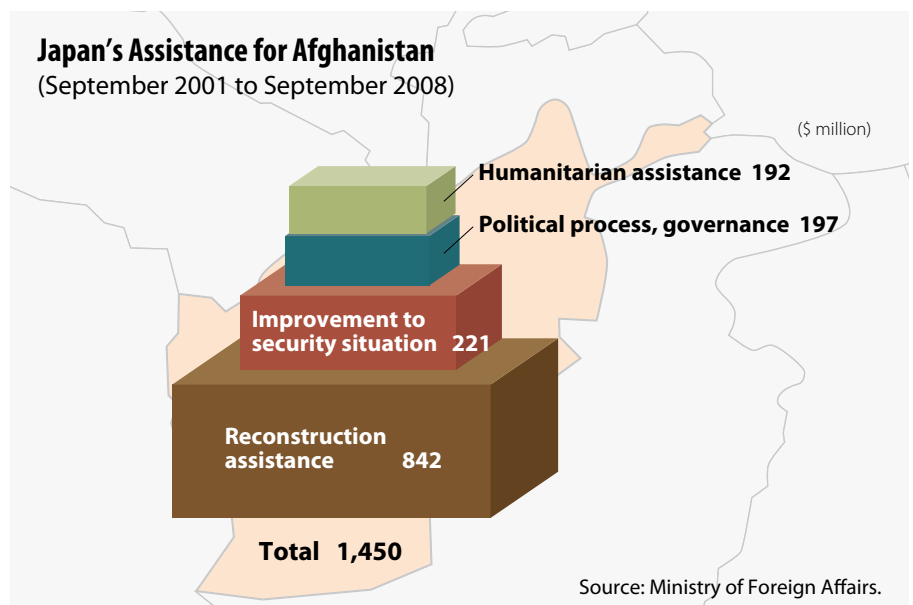
Countries around the world are working together to build peace and advance the reconstruction of Afghanistan to prevent it from once again becoming a haven for terrorism. Japan Echo reports that by actively contributing to this effort, Japan is fulfilling its responsibilities to and winning the confidence of the global community.

Japanese support for Afghanistan since 2001 has already exceeded \$1.45 billion (¥160 billion). If pledged assistance is included, Japan's \$2 billion makes it the third largest donor behind the United States (\$30 billion) and Britain (\$3 billion).

Assistance has been provided for security, infrastructure, basic human needs, agriculture and rural development, and culture. The Japanese government launched the reconstruction process in 2002 by hosting the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan (Tokyo Conference), securing pledges of more than \$4.5 billion. Since then, it has initiated five conferences or meetings on assistance, including the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board Meeting (JCMB) in February 2008.

In security-related matters, about 60,000 combatants were involved in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) through to June 2006, leading to the collection of 50,000 firearms and 100,000 heavy armaments.

In infrastructure, 650 kilometers of trunk roads have been completed, while the Kabul International Airport terminal has recently been built. The new terminal was constructed using a ¥3 billion grant from the Japanese government, and on November 6, 2008, Sadako



Ogata, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, attended the inauguration ceremony. During the ceremony, President Hamid Karzai expressed his gratitude, saying that he hoped the airport built using Japanese taxpayers' money would be properly maintained.

Moreover, up until now about 20 people have given up their lives in road construction projects associated with Japan, but this is a fact that has not been widely reported in Japan.

Japan makes a major contribution in meeting the basic human needs of the people of Afghanistan. While involved in building or reconstructing more than 500 schools, it has also trained 10,000

teachers or instructors and carried out literacy education for 300,000 people. Humanitarian support has been given through food assistance with 13,000 tons of wheat, beans, and other food items provided to 260,000 people as of 2008. It has also carried out a large-scale repatriation project to receive 2 million returnees in such places as Kandahar and Jalalabad.

In the field of public health, it has constructed 50 clinics, maintained 450 wells, and provided vaccinations against such diseases as polio and BCG for about 40 million people. In agricultural matters, Japan has cleared landmines over a 200 square kilometer area, as well as provided assistance for rice farming in Nangarhar. 