COUNTRY: Japan  
COMMITTEE: UNICEF  
DELEGATE: Aiching Chen, Wichita State University  

The issues addressed by UNICEF have always been of concern to Japan. Japan has long been one of the top donors for UNICEF, believing that it is important for the world community to recognize and respond to the needs of children. Japan realizes that the issue of AIDS/HIV has a great impact on poverty and children, especially in the developing world. Together we need to find ways to control this epidemic before it threatens to take away the hopes of future generations. We are pleased that UNICEF is also addressing the issue of famine prevention. We believe that the world's total food supply is adequate to sustain every person, but distribution is a problem resulting in about 800 million people worldwide still suffering from malnutrition. Japan believes that the world community should actively seek to eradicate famine, malnutrition and promote world food security.

I. AIDS/HIV Impact on Poverty and Children

Since the late 1970s, more than 23 million people have lost their lives to HIV/AIDS. By 2010, the cumulative toll is expected to rise to 45 million. By that time, without concerted global action, infant and child mortality rates will have doubled in the in region of Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Today, more than half of all new infections strike people under the age of 25 and almost two-thirds of them are women. The world's two billion children and adolescents are at the center of the HIV/AIDS crisis. Infant and child death rates have risen sharply, and 14 million children are new orphans because of disease. Furthermore, almost 2,000 infants became HIV-positive every day in the year 2002 either during pregnancy, birth, or through breastfeeding.

Japan believes that rapid spread of HIV/AIDS poses a threat to human security and greatly hinders the efforts of developing countries to reduce poverty, achieve social and economic development, and gain stability. In response, Japan has been formulating policy initiatives to address these threats. In July 2000, during the G8-Okinawa Summit Meeting, Japan, acting as chair, took up the issue of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, as one of its leading themes. On that occasion, the Japanese government announced the Okinawa Infectious Disease Initiative, under which Japan committed itself to extending support to developing countries for measures against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, with the target of allocating a total of 3 billion US dollars over the following five years. Furthermore, in December 2000, Japan hosted the Okinawa International Conference on Infectious Diseases, with the participation of representatives for the G8 countries, developing countries, international organizations, and civil society. Japan has played a leading role in building momentum in the international community to combat infectious diseases.

Japan believes that the following points are of particular importance in any future international strategy against HIV/AIDS. First of all, the most effective measure against HIV/AIDS is prevention. A wide range of preventive measures are urgently needed, including education; the wider use of condoms, safe blood supplies; improved public hygiene; prevention of mother-child transmission of diseases; improved testing and counseling capabilities. Second, the improvement of access to pharmaceuticals such as anti-retroviral drugs is important. Third, care for infected persons, patients, and AIDS orphans are important tasks. The establishment of health systems is essential for the safe and effective use of medicine. Fourth, research and development on an AIDS vaccine is essential. It is necessary to further strengthen international cooperation in this field. Fifth, natural efforts by developing countries are essential for prevention measures against HIV/AIDS to be effective. Sixth, it is important for donor countries, developing countries, international organizations, and civil society to build a partnership toward the common goal of mobilizing financial resources for the fight against the epidemic. Japan urges the international community to work more effectively to address this
unprecedented threat to humanity by mobilizing the wisdom and resources that we collectively possess.

II. Famine Prevention

Each year more than half of the 11 million deaths of children under five in developing countries are attributed to malnutrition. Malnutrition is part of an intergenerational cycle of poverty, poor growth and unrealized potential. The low status of women, poor maternal nutrition, inadequate prenatal care and the disproportionate burden of physical labor borne by mothers are some of the greatest impediments to improving nutritional status of children. When discrimination against women is prevalent, so is poor nutrition, regardless of economic growth. Two-thirds of the world’s 150 million malnourished children live in Asia. Each year 11 million low birth weight babies are born in South Asia and 3.6 million in Sub-Saharan Africa. Two important reasons for the very high malnutrition and low birth weight in South-Asia are women’s limited access to education and employment.

The Japanese government has been actively working towards the realization of "Food security for all" and the reduction of the number of children who suffer from malnutrition. In East Asia, Japan observes positive development; in Africa and South Asia, however, the situation is worsening. Japan believes that each government that faces malnutrition problems should strengthen its efforts and the international community also should support such endeavors. In order to eradicate the problems of famine and malnutrition, it is most important for each Government to focus on agriculture. About three-quarters of the population living in poverty in developing countries live in rural areas. Agriculture can ensure basic food for subsistence while providing opportunities to increase income for farmers and employment for the poor. In addition, agriculture can promote food security and land conservation, and foster protection of water resources and preservation of the natural environment. Such roles and functions of agriculture can only be realized with education to provide proper methods and techniques to develop the sustainable agriculture and rural development. There is also a need to emphasize on gender equality and empowerment of women. We need to promote women’s full and equal participation in the economy by proving them with secure and equal access to and control over productive resources including credit, land and water. Ensuring that women have an equal access to education and training in food production, processing and marketing, which allow them to move out of poverty.

Japan calls for the support from international community to effectively implement sustainable agriculture projects. Japan has provided about 7.5 billion US dollar bilateral assistance to developing economies for food production and rural development during the last 4 years. Japan is also the second largest donor to the FAO. The UN Human Security Fund, financed by Japan, started joint projects with FAO in Sudan, Uganda, Congo Democratic Republic and East Timor in 1998. According to the Development Assistance Committee, 37% of all agriculture-related ODA comes from Japan. Furthermore, Japan strongly supports the research project of "NERICA" or "New Rice for Africa." In order to improve children nutrition and famine, Japan believes that it is of vital importance that the donor countries and international agencies, such as FAO, continue to work together to support the efforts of developing countries.
I. Democratic Governance in Africa

Africa is a continent full of transitional governments and developing democracies. In order to usher in a new era of peace and democratic governance, the ECOSOC Committee must take action on the continent to ensure the development of viable democracies. The first Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I)(1993) was organized by Japan, the UN, and the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA). TICAD I focused on political and economic reforms, private sector development, regional cooperation and integration, Asian experience and African development, and international cooperation. TICAD II (October 1998) laid basic foundations for development (good governance, and conflict prevention and post-conflict development). The development agenda for TICAD III, (September 29 - October 1, 2003) emphasized international community recognition of the essential role that ownership plays in enhancing governance. Japan acknowledged here that development aid cannot be sustained unless the beneficiaries address the challenges as their own. Ownership has to be initiated and led by Africans and, the international community should respect the initiatives of Africa and support its efforts as an equal.

The need for political reform and democratic development in Africa is critical. Some governments have utilized corruption to their advantage for political gains. Often times holding the media hostage to only inform the audience what the government desires. The misuse of aid money and corruption can inhibit development. Proactive monitoring by the United Nations, and the African Union is essential in establishing the infrastructure for a democratic Africa. The framework for the implementation of these goals has been discussed in several conferences, plans, and organizations. Japan already endorses the G8 African Action Plan and NEPAD (the New Partnership for Africa’s Development). Japan supports a concerted effort to integrate the key elements of these agreements into an ECOSOC Committee resolution.

Japan emphasizes the need for African governments to improve transparency and accountability through political checks and balances. It is crucial to implement government led reforms that address corruption and misallocation of funds, and enhance accountability. Japan endorses a proposal to establish an enforcement agency through the United Nations to monitor the allocation of funds and supervision of expenditures in an attempt to curb corruption, similar to the APRM (African Peer Review Mechanism). Acceptable uses of aid and supervision must be addressed, defined and vigilantly examined.

II. Achieving Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender Discrimination

Various instruments and steps have been taken to promote gender equality and eliminate gender discrimination. The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), established in 1946, is a major actor in promoting gender equality. The Beijing Platform for Action (1995), adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, developed a basis for gender equality. At the Beijing +5 Special Session (2000), States reaffirmed the Platform for Action and approved further actions and initiatives to implement it. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is a comprehensive treaty on women’s human rights, often described as the “international bill of rights for women.” Currently, 165 States have ratified it. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women monitors the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

Japan has placed the achievement of a gender-equal society, in which women and men are fully able to participate as equals, as one of its high-priorities. The Japanese government has established the Gender Equality Bureau within the Cabinet to implement the Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society (1999). The Bureau is responsible for strengthening Japan’s national machinery for gender equality. Japan allocates 10 percent of its official development assistance (ODA) to support women around the world in such areas as education, health and economic development. The Regional Symposium on the Abolition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to Ensure Safe Motherhood (2003), convened by the Government of Sudan, and cosponsored by UNICEF and Japan, is of great importance in recognizing that FGM contributes greatly to gender inequality. Japan strongly hopes that the harmful consequences of this practice be more effectively addressed.
As a Party to the Convention, Japan reports periodically to the Committee, and was recently congratulated on its efforts to promote a gender-equal society. The Committee had recommended Japan’s ratification of the Optional Protocol. Though Japan considers the system of receiving communications from individuals, as set forth in the Protocol, an effective tool for implementation of the Convention, it has concerns about the Protocol’s impact on the independence of the Japanese judiciary. Japan continues to carefully consider adoption of the Protocol.

The Japanese government affirms the importance of non-governmental organizations in building a gender-equal society. Through cooperation and communication with NGOs, Japan will endeavor to advance the status of women by improving women’s representation in all spheres of society. Japan urges the non-party States to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as an essential first step toward gender equality. Japan encourages the UN to increase the number of qualified female staff and appointees with a view to promoting gender equality within UN system. Additionally, Japan encourages the UN system to recruit more men and women from un-represented or under-represented countries, including Japan.

III. Changing Consumption and Production Patterns
Environmental impacts resulting from wasteful consumption and production patterns include global warming (from the emission of greenhouse gases), hazardous pollution, and environmental degradation. The Earth Summit in Rio (1992) produced a comprehensive programme of action (Agenda 21) for implementing sustainable development globally to address these problems. During the Summit, the “e7”, an organization of nine electric utilities in Japan, Europe and North America, was formed. The “e7” has embarked on 100 projects and activities of various sizes to bring electricity to areas where there was none. In an effort stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997) was developed. The protocol creates three innovative mechanisms designed to help countries reduce the costs of meeting their emission targets: joint implementation, emissions trading, and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). During the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (2000), the Plan of Implementation was adopted to further the implementation of Agenda 21.

Japan is active in promoting sustainable development and addressing environmental issues. Environmental conservation is a priority task under Japan’s Medium-term Policy on ODA. Japan emphasizes dialogue with developing countries regarding the environmental impacts of economic activities. One such example is the Japan-China Comprehensive Forum on Environmental Cooperation (1996). The Forum coordinates cooperation between Japan and China on tackling the severe environmental degradation resulting from China’s economic development. Additionally, Japanese assistance focuses on training programs for people in developing countries, providing technical experts. The program trains people in developing countries on strengthening and improving the capacity of environmental agencies. This program is operational in Thailand, Indonesia, China, Mexico, Chile, and Egypt. Furthermore, Japan supports the environmental conservation programs of NGOs through grant assistance for grass roots projects and the NGO Subsidy Framework.

Improving the environment and promoting sustainable development requires international agreement and cooperation. Japan firmly believed that developed countries, including Japan, have a responsibility to share their experiences and technologies to developing countries, enabling the formation of environment-conscious economies and societies globally. Japan is promoting international cooperation to expedite the use of environment-friendly energy, and to develop and disseminate its technology. For example, renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power are extremely effective in bringing electricity to remote villages and small island countries where traditional power plants are not constructed. Such sources of energy will help combat global warming and air pollution. Japan provides ODA loans for projects promoting the utilization of these renewable sources of energy and Japan recommends that the international community continue to promote such projects.

Aware of the damaging effects of greenhouse gas emissions, Japan supported the Kyoto Protocol and is working to promote international cooperation in achieving the greenhouse gas reduction targets stipulated in the Kyoto Protocol. The emission trading mechanism is seen as a key to the process of emissions reduction. However, emission reduction measures require considerable financing, a particular difficulty for the developing countries. To maintain the feasibility of the Kyoto Protocol, Japan seeks additional ratifications of the protocol as well as increased financing for emission reduction measures.
Country: Japan  
Committee: GA First Committee  
Delegates: Mike Harris and Keith Hansen, Wichita State University

I. Conventional Arms Control at the Regional and Sub-regional levels

Japan considers the United Nations efforts for programs designed to cut the number of small arms and light weapons imperative, and continues to offer logistical and financial support. Japanese policy prohibits the exportations of small arms and light weapons, and offers stiff penalties for weapons violations domestically. Following the Second World War Japan’s foreign policy has been guided by a philosophy of peace. We believe that the key to security does not come from increasing military strength, but through peace and development. Peace comes not only through bi-lateral relations, but also through sub-regional and regional cooperation aimed at truly unifying the global community. As the world struggles to rebuild countries ravaged by war and conflict, member states must focus on disarming and reintegrating former combatants and promoting sustainable development within communities.

The accumulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons presents a roadblock to peace throughout our world. These weapons have hindered the United Nations in its efforts at social and economic reconstruction, peace building initiatives, and providing humanitarian aid to war torn countries. Japan seeks to remove this barrier to peace, and to prevent the 500,000 deaths attributed each year to SALW. Conventional arms control has recently been the focus of Japanese diplomatic efforts within the UN. Following the 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, Japan has been the international leader in keeping SALW on the agenda of the UN member states. Japan was involved as chair of the UN First Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action from the 2001 conference.

Japan believe that the implementation of all aspects of the Programme of Action (PoA) is the first step for the international community to significantly cut the number of conventional arms in our world, but by itself, it is not enough. The most crucial aspect of this PoA is the establishment of points of contact within member states, as well as national coordinating agencies for record keeping. These contact points and agencies will serve a crucial role in data sharing between countries, and for accurate UN records. Concern must still be paid to the issue of non-state actors and their accessibility to SALW. Intra-governmental agencies should be able to better formulate domestic policies to help curb the export of weapons by outside actors.

Efforts in cutting small arms stockpiles also requires demobilizing and disarming former combatants in regions lacking domestic security. Japan believes that providing a secure environment within communities will help curb the small arms trade. Within unstable states such as Afghanistan and Iraq, outside agencies must assess problems, develop strategic policy plans of action, and increase public awareness and regional cooperation in arms control. These actions will facilitate nation building and decrease the perceived need for arms in traditionally unstable regions of the world.

In Cambodia, Japan has established a four tiered effort to reduce arms numbers. A first step is the voluntary surrender of arms in return for economic assistance and development that can include but is not limited to the construction of infrastructure including roads, schools, hospitals, and public utilities. This community based approach can include the public destruction of the acquired weapons. A second step is to promote community understanding of the necessity of collection and destruction of arms by boosting public confidence in the security their government can guarantee. A further step in dealing with the arms problem is to develop a program to mark and register the remaining weapons; this step will help to prevent the future
illegal circulation of weapons. Finally, it is important that the government along with NGO’s establish public awareness programs about the dangers of small arms.

Japan remains active in the UN Disarmament Conference, and in the Regional Seminar for Pacific Island Countries on Implementing the UN PoA. Through these conferences and increased financial aid for the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, Japan hopes that small arms collections projects in exchange for regional development will promote peace.

II. Demobilization and Reintegration of Combatants in a Post-Conflict Period

The most important step in reintegrating former combatants into civil society is disarming them. After periods of conflict, many soldiers return home armed, still embracing the ideologies that led them initially to war. Removing conventional arms from these combatants is a task that requires not just civil rule, but also convincing these combatants of the importance of putting down their arms in the interest of rebuilding their society. Japan actively supports the United Nations efforts to reduce the number of conventional arms in war torn regions. Japan has been involved in the implementation of The Programme of Action from the 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Weapons, including the chairing the follow up First Biennial Meeting of States to discuss the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Japan strives for increased international involvement with programs designed at reintegrating exploited child soldiers back into civil society. Currently there are over 300,000 child soldiers in over 30 countries throughout the world. Japan supports the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the optional protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict that was passes by the general assembly 25 May, 2000. The protocol specifically requires that member states abide by international laws requiring that combatants be a minimum of 18 years old if they are drafted, and cannot voluntarily engage in conflict until after the age of sixteen. Child protection advisers have been an effective means of verifying compliance to these UN mandates. Child protection advisers provide public accountability and allow comprehensive reporting back to the General Assembly, and ensure that countries abide by ethical practices during conflict. Education of the former child soldiers, as well as the public, will also accommodate an easier transition of a country from conflict to domestic tranquility.

It is imperative to alleviate the arms problems if we wish to successfully reintegrate former combatants into civil society. We have to provide education and knowledge to these people so that they understand the importance of laying down their arms and looking for a more peaceful way of rebuilding areas ravaged by conflict.
I. Global Climate Change

The issue of climate change needs to be given greater priority by the international community. Research and reports made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations Environmental Program and World Meteorological Organization agree that most of the global warming that has occurred in the past century is due to human activity. Thus the issue of global warming is one that requires global cooperation from developing and developed countries. We need to find ways of reducing emissions while maintaining economic production, and development.

Japan promotes sustainable development that encourages international environmental protection. It is the fourth largest donor to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). In 1997 Japan hosted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It was there that the Kyoto Protocol was adopted and each developed country was given a target for reduction of green house emissions.

Climate change is closely related to poverty concerns. Developing countries are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change because they rely on natural resources for their existence. Climate disasters such as desertification hurt developing countries that are unable to deal with the effects and thus are impeded in their development efforts. Japan environmentally supports developing countries by contributing to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which offers financial assistance to developing countries in an effort to preserve their environmental resources.

Domestically, Japan also takes several steps to reverse global warming. Over the past four years, Japanese researchers have been working on solar-powered airships that will aid in the study of global warming. Such ships will measure the amount of carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere. Japanese automobile manufacturers are also actively involved in the process. National economic organizations initiated a voluntary action plan that stated that automobile plants would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10% of their 1990 figures by 2010. Automobile companies are working to meet tough fuel efficiency laws and air conditioner air coolants.

UNEP has addressed climate change at several conferences, including the Earth Summit in 1992, which produced the UN Framework convention on climate control (UNFCCC). World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg in 2002 to further implement environmental policies. In accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, Japan promotes the use of technology and emission swapping to combat the effects and causes of global climate change.

Due to the direct link between global warming and economic development it is a difficult task to get all countries on board to fight environmental threats. Key world players are often reluctant to sign on to environmental conventions citing the non-participation of developing countries. However, climate change is an issue that affects both developing and developed countries. Thus it is necessary for developed countries to play a large role by researching methods on reduction of harmful gases while promoting global sustainable development. Japan believes that developed countries that do not support environmental conventions, Japan supports the possibility of fines or taxes that would compensate for the disadvantage those parties to environmental restrictions would find themselves.

II. Desertification

Japan is keenly aware of the problem of desertification, and is actively involved in addressing perhaps the most problematic and destabilizing issue of modern time. Globally, the issues of ecological resource management and deforestation are intertwined with human migration patterns, international and domestic conflicts, sustainable economic growth and stability, and good governance. Local factors that drive desertification are economic and social pressures, overgrazing, over-cultivation, and poor irrigation. Water related issues are another leading cause of this grave problem. Social demands on shrinking water resources, poor irrigation practices, and lack of pollution controls can quickly turn semi-arable land into unusable patches of arid ground. The urgency was brought into clarity at the Third World Water Forum, hosted by Japan in March, 2003. Only 0.1% of the world’s water is useable fresh water and that is shrinking due to human consumption practices and poor farming methods. Japan is proud to be at the forefront of research in this area, developing new, affordable technologies to desalinate seawater in remote locales.
Desertification is not a natural expansion of deserts; it is primarily caused by human activities. It occurs because dryland ecosystems are extremely sensitive to over-use or exploitation. Over 30 percent of the world’s land areas are already degraded and threatened by desertification, including 30% of the United States, 25% of Latin America, and 27% of Europe and 33% of Asia. While Africa is currently experiencing the greatest difficulties of desertification, roughly affecting two-thirds of the continent, other areas of the world are quickly becoming ecologically stressed as well. The social, political and economic hardships resulting from these factors are affecting the entire global community. A report issued by the U.N. Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification concluded that half of the armed conflicts that year could be directly attributed to environmental causal factors. The problems are not confined to the locations of origin as Japan suffers from dust storms blowing in from the northern deserts of China and Mongolia.

There are international incentives to address desertification: militarized conflicts which threaten to destabilize regions, the cost of lost revenues (approximately $42 billion annually), “environmental refugees” that move from one affected area to another and compound the problem. All of these factors are reasons to take immediate and decisive actions sooner rather than later. In addition, preventative measures to combat the problem are more cost effective, estimated at $2.4 billion annually.

Japan supports policies that encourage responsible, sustainable economic growth, water resource management, and reforestation and environmentally sound human settlements. Japan has made extensive financial commitments totaling $750 million over the next five years in the fields of basic human needs. These cooperative efforts support African efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals. Japan has also contributed $200 million to the “Trust Fund for Human Security” which promotes protection from threats to human dignity and seeks empowerment of individuals and their communities to deal with problems of desertification effectively. The education of the local people, their involvement in decisions that affect them and the adoption of good governance principles are of the greatest priority for Japan. To this end, Japan is actively working on ways to develop rural infrastructure in areas of transportation, communication, energy and water, and augment food self-sufficiency. Japan has expanded its duty-free and quota-free access to products from these developing countries. Japan is willing to forgive debts to eligible African countries, totaling approximately $3 billion, in an effort to steer these countries priorities into areas of education, health, and development in economic and social infrastructure which will in turn promote better farming, better use of resources, greater income, and promote stability.
The current issues being addressed before the 58th General Assembly, 2nd Committee, have held Japan’s attention for quite some time. Japan, as the world’s second largest economy, has always set a high priority on trade and development issues. Japan’s position as a strong economic and political actor has allowed it to take an active role in international trade and development. Japan’s power dictates that it takes an active role within the WTO and the World Bank. Japan is one of the success stories of the World Bank Group development initiative. Addressing the issues over subsidies and sustainable development is a goal of the Japanese delegation to the UN. Japan promotes sustainable development in developing countries, particularly those seeking self-sufficiency. Japan agrees with Kofi Annan’s statement that “free trade brings opportunities for all people, not just a few.” With this in mind, Japan actively seeks to improve the condition of the global economy, as well as promote environmentally compatible development.

I. The Role of Subsidies in the Global Trading System

Japan regularly strives for a consensus among member states, and is disturbed by the lack of current cooperation among members in the WTO involving agricultural subsidies. From the onset of global trade talks in the 1950’s, starting with GATT and reaching as far as the Uruguay Round Agreements and Doha Ministerial Conference, Japan has been involved in international trade issues. We acknowledge the deficiencies in the current status of international agricultural trade, and have actively tried to reach accommodations with almost all parties involved. Japan has been involved in poverty reduction in the global south. In conjunction with other international organizations, Japan strives to promote food security for developing countries, by promoting economic growth and food security for LDC’S. Japan insists that the importance of the agricultural subsidies should be considered a legal measure in the global trading system.

Japan recognizes the important multifunctional role that agriculture plays in a country’s domestic security and economy. Japan’s agricultural sector relies heavily on the production of rice. Rice is a staple in the Japanese diet, and thus cannot be dependent on foreign sources. Japan, in response to its civil society and national security needs, recognizes the important role that agricultural subsidies play in promoting food security. Japan insists that agricultural subsidies should be considered a legal measure in the global trading system. Free and open trade is a goal that all of the world should strive to reach, but the cost to the country’s domestic markets and food security must be measured as well. Food security and national security are intricately linked, and one cannot be discussed without the other. The promotion of Japan’s domestic agricultural markets allows us to provide a safe and reliable food source for our citizens. Agricultural subsidies also help protect Japan’s rural communities which are rapidly disappearing. Included in Japan’s rural community are ancient cultural features which loss would sadden our society greatly. Japan cannot allow its domestic security to be jeopardized by the world market.

As a country that imports more than 60% of its total food supply, and is by far the largest net food importer in the world, Japan has a unique philosophy regarding the “coexistence of various types of agriculture.” Japan believes in reforming its agricultural system in a way that is suitable for its unique agricultural and economic conditions. An agreement must be based upon a compromise that involves all of the relevant issues for all of parties involved. Japan has been more than willing to examine its agricultural policy in the past; however Japan’s unique agricultural situation has not been represented fairly in past WTO negotiations.
II. The Role of the World Bank in Promoting Sustainable Development

Japan has historically pursued the promotion of sustainable development throughout the UN agencies. Japan would like to ensure that economic development meets the needs of the world’s people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Developing country’s environments and markets must be made sustainable, as to ensure future success. Progress over the last five decades was achieved through structural reforms that we focused on health and education, and growth in investment, employment, output, and productivity. For the first time in human history, the global community possesses the technology and resources to rid our world of poverty.

Japan’s Policy and Human Resource Development Fund (PHRD Fund) is reducing poverty in developing countries through technical assistance and human resource development with the support of the World Bank. The PHRD funded 97 Technical Assistant Grants to developing countries totaling (US) $61.6 million. The PHRD fund will create a foundation for sustaining development. Japan has initiated in a continuing development fund in its second year of operation, the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF). The JSDF applies innovative methods to the development process and encourages the direct participation and empowerment of civil society groups and NGOs. The grants are forging new partnerships and empowering groups with the authority to make decisions and provide grants to developing countries in urgent need. In FY 2002, 21 grants were approved by the Government of Japan, totaling (US) $26 million in allocations. These grants are benefiting 18 countries in six regions.

Japan has a strong commitment for promoting sustainable development in developing countries of the. Japan has provided a model of an efficient approach to applying a strong education and administration capabilities to provide the groundwork of a solid foundation for sustainable development. Japan will continue to empower NGOs, civil society groups, and community groups to ensure sustainable development in the world economy. To promote a self sufficiency is the ideal solution to ending poverty and with the technology and resources we possess, we are not contempt with our current progress. Japan will continue to take a proactive stance promoting innovative approach to sustainable development on developing countries.

The Second Committee should work to establish a framework that recognizes the importance of the long term objective of ending poverty, rather than adhering to temporary solutions in the global trading systems. Allowing LDC’s and other countries in the global south to provide their own food security and economic development should be a high priority in the WTO and the UN. The promotion of domestic markets in these countries should be a goal of the WTO in regards to international trade. Japan and the WTO should work to ensure that a countries domestic market can be sustained without damage to the environment, economy, or national security.
Expectations of the UN have become higher than ever, following the Millennium Development Summit where Japan played a major role. As, one of the world’s largest economic powers, Japan has an obligation to the international community.

The Millennium Development target goals that are the focus on the third committee include: Ensuring environmental sustainability and reversing the loss of environment resources, reducing by half of proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water, achieving significant improvement in lives of at least a million slum dwellers by 2020, developing a global partnership for development of by opening trading and financial system; addressing the least developing countries special needs, and dealing comprehensively with developing countries’ debt problems. These issues are a major concern for the world and for Japan and the need for action is imminent.

1. Ensure environment sustainability.

Over 1 billion people worldwide lack access to safe water and almost 2.5 billion lack adequate sanitation. About five million people are dying each year from water-related diseases. International concern about water resources is growing and Japan is taking steps to address these issues. Japan’s initiatives include meeting: Human needs; in education, healthcare, water, agriculture to eradicate poverty; Japan proposes a grand assistance program for Grass-root Human security; and Strengthen cooperation among and between rich donors and receivers countries; and special attention made toward fresh water resources to improve water management in developing countries.

Japan is also working in favor of protecting and sustaining ecological environment, centered upon on the devastating impact that our changing climate is having. Yet for Japan it is time to reverse and put the word and energy of negotiation in to action.

Urban slums lack basic services or access to clean water and have poorly built housing and overcrowding, an estimation of 928 million of people in 2003 live in these conditions. Japan is involved in helping people to attain lives of dignity. The growing global concerns about slums with the UN making it one of its major priorities. Japan is responding in a positive way by evaluating and identifying the best principal responses to the worldwide slum challenge for improving the lives of slum dwellers through poverty reduction programs.

2. Development global Partnership.

Japan is working to further advance financing for development including private investment and domestic resource-mobilization in the developing countries that are in need. In terms of trade, Japan is taking big step toward implementing the development strategy, which contain objective and priority policy in the field of free and bilateral trade with developing country that will allow those countries to boost their social-economic development.