

“Assistance Package by the Government of Japan for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage” (APLD)

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The Government of Japan has been providing a wide range of support from disaster preparedness such as human resource development and early warning systems to disaster risk management, for loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, which is an urgent issue in the world. Japan hereby announces such contributions as the "Assistance Package by the Government of Japan for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage" and will provide comprehensive assistance for losses and damages in cooperation with the international community.

1. BACKGROUND: Loss and Damage is a Pressing Global Issue

In the Summary for Policymakers of the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, it is stated for the first time that human-induced climate change has caused "widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages" to nature and people, with more frequent and intense extreme events. Also, it is indicated that losses and damages escalate with every increment of global warming.

At COP26 last year, the urgency of scaling up action and support, as appropriate, including through finance, technology transfer, and capacity building, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change was reiterated. In addition, the operationalization of the Santiago Network for technical assistance and the establishment of the Glasgow Dialogue on the arrangements for funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage were agreed. Specific discussions on each of these issues continue at this COP27.

In averting, minimizing, and addressing losses and damages, it is important for the international community to unite forces to enhance prompt support to vulnerable countries affected by losses and damages, while continuing discussions on the framework for assistance. For this purpose, the Government of Japan announces the “Assistance Package by the Government of Japan for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage”.

2. “Assistance Package by the Government of Japan for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage”

The Government of Japan, in parallel with its contribution to ongoing discussions under the UNFCCC, has been providing a wide range of support from disaster preparedness such as human resource development and early warning systems, to disaster risk management and reconstruction guided by the “Build Back Better” principle, with regard to the enhancement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Japan compiles and announces these supports as the “Assistance Package by the Government of Japan for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage” to provide comprehensive support for losses and damages in cooperation with the international community.

(1) Comprehensive Support Provided by Japan from Disaster Preparedness to Disaster Relief and Disaster Risk Insurance

<Disaster Preparedness>

■ Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Japan contributes to human resource development in developing countries and shares disaster information through the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), which has 31 Asian countries as members. For example, visiting researchers are invited from member countries (125 from 27 countries in total as of March 2022) and are trained to contribute to the planning of disaster reduction policies in member countries through research on disaster reduction policies. The ADRC also collects information on disaster management systems and the latest disaster information in each country and provides them on its website, as well as satellite observations of disaster damage in the event of a disaster. [Disaster Management, Cabinet Office]
- Japan provides technical assistance and capacity development supports for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services responsible for early warning systems of natural disasters to enhance their services including weather observation and, forecast, and climate information. [Japan Meteorological Agency]

■ Technological Contributions to the Mitigation of Water-related Disaster Risks

Japan contributes to solving social issues related to water in each country through the development of technologies, e.g., satellite observation/prediction data and flood risk assessment, as well as the use of hybrid technologies in combination with both climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, e.g., the effective use of existing dams, and by communicating the results of these technologies to overseas countries. [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism]

<Disaster Relief and Disaster Risk Insurance>

■ Disaster Risk Insurance

The Government of Japan, in cooperation with international organizations, has promoted the initiative of disaster risk insurance, which utilizes insurance schemes to provide rapid payouts without insurance claim investigation in the event of a large-scale disaster. The Government of Japan has contributed to launching the initiatives of disaster risk insurance in Southeast Asia (Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility: SEADRIF), the Pacific region (Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative: PCRAFI), and the Caribbean (Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility: CCRIF). After launching the initiatives, the Government of Japan has made subsequent financial contributions to the SEADRIF and the PCRAFI. [Ministry of Finance]

■ Post Disaster Stand-by Loan

Japan provides “Post Disaster Stand-by Loan” to developing countries that are exposed to a risk of natural disasters, which provides rapid assistance when a disaster occurs by having the Yen Loan signed in advance. Examples of recently signed agreements are Fiji (5 billion yen in 2020), El Salvador (5 billion yen in 2015), Peru (10 billion yen in 2014), and the Philippines (50 billion yen in 2013). [Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

(2) Knowledge Sharing

■ Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform

Japan uses the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), which was launched to support climate change risk-informed decision-making and highly effective climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region, to improve scientific findings related to climate

change risks, to provide stakeholders with support tools, and to strengthen capacity related to climate change impact assessment and climate change adaptation, in collaboration with countries and relevant institutions in the region. For example, the AP-PLAT provides forecasting tools (e.g., for precipitation, temperature) around the world based on climate scenarios, and information that can be used for averting and minimizing losses and damages and for adaptation planning in each country. In addition, e-learning courses are made available for officials of developing countries who are seeking funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other sources. [Ministry of the Environment]

■ Sharing of Earth Observation Data and Climate Change Projection Data

Japan shares earth observation data and climate change projection data through the Data Integration and Analysis System (DIAS). It supports human resources development to assess disaster risk, based on satellite observation data and climate change projection data in each country through training programs using the DIAS. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology]

(3) Contribution to the United Nations and Multilateral Frameworks

<United Nations>

■ Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) and Global Adaptation Network (GAN)

Japan has continued to financially and technically contribute to APAN and GAN, and has also supported the organization of events such as webinars on the theme of losses and damages. [Ministry of the Environment]

■ World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The WMO is promoting the UN Early Warning Initiative "Early Warnings for All", which aims to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years. Japan has supported this initiative and worked closely with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in each country to improve meteorological services around the world, particularly in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. [Japan Meteorological Agency]

■ International Recovery Platform (IRP)

IRP is a cooperative framework established to promote the "Build Back Better" principle in countries around the world with the participation of international organizations, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Japan has continued to support activities such as holding forums to gather and disseminate knowledge. [Disaster Management, Cabinet Office]

<Other Multilateral Frameworks>

■ Global Shield

In the communiqué of the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting, it was stated that G7 will work toward a "Global Shield against Climate Risks". Japan, as a member of the G7, will contribute to the discussion for the purpose of making progress towards COP27. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

■ Quad (Australia-India-Japan-US) Climate and Information Service Taskforce

Based on the "Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)" compiled at the Quad Leaders' meeting in 2022, the Climate and Information Service Taskforce under the Climate Working Group has been discussing the development of early warning systems in the Pacific region. Japan will contribute by utilizing AP-PLAT to promptly deliver necessary information to those who need it. [Ministry of the Environment]

■ Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)

Japan has contributed through its participation to REAP, an international partnership aiming to make people in developing countries safer with early action including early warning systems. As a member of the Governing Board, Japan has supported adaptation planning in developing countries and the sharing of good practices. [Ministry of the Environment]

■ Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

Japan has contributed to APN activities as the host country (in Hyogo Prefectural Government) as well as one of the major donor countries. APN conducts various research projects related to losses and damages prevention and adaptation. More than one hundred research papers supported by APN have been cited in the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). [Ministry of the Environment]

(4) Promotion of Global Expansion of Climate Related Services and Technologies through Public-Private Partnerships

- Japan has promoted the global expansion of climate related services and technologies that can be used against losses and damages, such as disaster prevention technologies, in collaboration with the "Public-Private-Academic Networking Meeting on Climate-related Risks in Japan" and the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT). [Ministry of the Environment]
- The Japan International Public-Private Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (JIPAD), a public-private liaison group consisting of 208 companies and organizations, is holding public-private disaster risk reduction seminars to promote the overseas deployment of disaster risk reduction technologies of Japanese companies. Most recent events include: the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) organized by the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC); an online seminar co-hosted by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, and the ASEAN Secretariat; and, a seminar at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2022 held in Brisbane, Australia. [Disaster Management, Cabinet Office]
- Japan has been identifying and disseminating good practices of adaptation businesses by Japanese private sector in the publication "Climate Change Adaptation Good Practices"¹ to encourage the diffusion and deployment of technologies from Japanese private sector that can be used against losses and damages, such as early warning systems and compact weather radars. [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry]
- Initiative to Promote the Development of Early Warning Systems in the Asia-Pacific Region through Public-Private Partnerships (see attachment for details)
Ministry of the Environment of Japan is planning to establish a new and additional cooperative structure for Japanese companies interested in developing early warning systems (e.g., installation of observation devices, analysis and projection based on observation data, delivery of climate information services) and developing projects using early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region, in a way that can be well adapted to the circumstances of each country. As the first step, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan aims to build a prototype early warning system in the Asian region to pave the way for further development. [Ministry of the Environment]

¹ Climate Change Adaptation Good Practices by Japanese Private Sector in Developing Countries-(February 2022/METI)
https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/energy_environment/global_warming/pdf/JCM_FS/R3FY_adaptation_practice_English.pdf

(Attachment) Initiative to Promote the Development of Early Warning Systems through Public-Private Partnerships in the Asia-Pacific Region

(Complementary to the United Nations Early Warning Systems Initiative)

(1) Overview

Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) is planning to establish a new and additional cooperative structure for Japanese companies interested in developing early warning systems (e.g., installation of observation devices, analysis and projection based on observation data, delivery of climate information services) and developing projects using early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region as well as to develop business using early warning systems, in a way that can be well adapted to the circumstance in each country. As the first step, MOEJ aims to build a prototype early warning system in the Asian region to pave the way for further development.

(2) Background

In March 2022, the United Nations announced that it will spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early-warning systems within five years. Since then, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been leading the efforts to achieve the goal. Japan also expressed support for the UN's initiative at COP27.

Some uninhabited areas are also important for business operations such as land/sea transportation routes and production sites of raw material. It is expected that early warning systems will be developed by the private sector in such areas and in large-scale industrial parks.

As an example of Japanese companies' efforts in early warning systems, Weathernews Inc. aims to install small radars capable of high-frequency observations at 50 locations in Asia, including in Vietnam and Japan, by April 2024. The establishment of a new observation network could create new business opportunities, such as the expansion of the market for weather index insurances that cover climate change risks related to crop production and transportation.

However, it is necessary to generate, analyze, and forecast weather data in the target area by utilizing ground radar and satellite observation to develop early warning systems. Weather index insurances also need to develop insurance products that are adapted to early warning systems and compatible with available observation data. In order to proceed with these projects, consultations and procedures with local governments (consultations on data use, cost sharing, licensing for observation or data communication, etc.) are indispensable. It is anticipated that issues may arise as individual companies carry forward initiatives.

For this reason, MOEJ is planning to establish a cooperative structure for Japanese companies interested in developing early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region. As the first step, MOEJ aims to build a prototype early warning system in the Asian region to pave the way for further development. MOEJ will support these efforts through collaboration with members of the Public-Private-Academic Networking Meeting on Climate-related Risks in Japan and the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), as well as research on regulatory information, consultations with developing country governments, and cooperation through G7.

(3) Next Steps

MOEJ will establish a cooperative structure for interested companies as soon as possible, with the aim to develop a prototype early warning system in the Asian region to pave the way for further development.

At the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy and Environment in Sapporo in 2023, MOEJ will continue to draw attention to the "Assistance Package by the Government of Japan for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage", call on support from the G7/G20 countries and collaboration among developed countries.