

# Methods of Regional and Municipal Internationalization Policy

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## 1. Introduction

The 21st century will be upon us in a mere five years. In recent years, the preparation of high speed transportation networks as well as developments and preparation of sophisticated information transmission technologies have significantly increased exchanges between people and brought us closer to the realization of a “borderless” international community. It is believed that this trend will further develop with the passage of time.

Over the past several years, a stronger yen, trading friction, and the bursting of the Japanese economic bubble have greatly affected the economies at the regional level, and brought the necessity for drastic economic structural reforms to light.

In the same manner as the Japanese national economy, economic internationalization at the regional level has remained fixed upon an industrial structure devoted to trading. However, in recent years, internationalization at the administrative and citizens level, has flourished.

It is the aim of this manuscript to provide discus-

sion on the promotion of internationalization of regional administrations, especially international cooperation and contributions at the municipal level.

## 2. International Cooperation — the Present and the Future

This year marks the 52nd year since the end of W.W. II. Within the postwar reconstruction process, Japan received a great deal of assistance from many overseas countries, and was able to successfully revive its economy and flourish economically. This economic recovery has allowed Japan to become the world's largest provider of Official Development Assistance.

In 1954, Japan became a member of the Colombo Plan, and for over 40 years now, has been providing support to various developing countries. The forms of this support continues to change. Japan is facing a countless number of problems among which, environmental conservation, population control, AIDS, and regional disputes, affect the world on a global scale. Unfortunately, the vicious cycle of poverty in developing countries, is at the root of delays in the resolution of the aforementioned problems.

As before, countless numbers of people have been deprived of even their most basic human rights and continue to suffer. The spread of international cooperation in efforts to help these people is well documented, and we will look further into the various international cooperative activities occurring at

the national and regional levels (other ordinance-designated cities and Hiroshima Prefecture), in Hiroshima City, and in citizen based NGOs.

## 2-1 International cooperation at the national level

ODA (Official Development Assistance) is representative of international assistance provided by Japan and is where most of the emphasis on economic assistance is placed.

### (1) Concepts and goals of international cooperation

Changes in the international scene and rises in domestic economic power and international status have resulted in changes in Japan's roles, which in turn forced changes in Japan's international cooperation policies.

The 1992 "ODA Net" which is an outline of the concepts and goals of international cooperation, is the culmination of these experiences and achievements. International cooperation principles which were expressed in the 1991 "ODA Manual" are as shown below.

#### (Basic concepts)

- 1) Consider humanistic and moralistic aspects.
- 2) Act with recognition of mutual existence in the international society. Restated, assistance should be provided with the recognition that the stability and development of developing nations is an essential aspect to the peace and prosperity of the world as a whole.
- 3) Heed environmental protection.
- 4) Support efforts toward independence.

#### (Basic principles)

- 1) Support the harmonious coexistence of the environment and development.
- 2) Avoid utilization of assistance for the promotion of military and international disputes.
- 3) Pay close attention to military expenditures, the development and manufacturing weapons of mass destruction, and imports and exports of weaponry in developing countries.
- 4) Pay special attention to the promotion of democracy, introduction of market based economies and the security of basic human rights and freedom in developing countries.

### (2) The significance of international cooperation

As is noted above, ODA emphasizes activities which are linked to peace and efforts toward independence. This is significant in the following manner.

#### (Significance)

- 1) Links cooperation with the expansion of the world economy, and preparation of the infrastructure.
- 2) Japan which is in a position of leadership in the world economic society, is being called upon to fulfill its role by contributing internationally as part of its foreign policy.
- 3) For Japan which is not blessed with spacious lands or rich resources, the maintenance of friendly relations with developing nations is integral to the sustenance of steady economic activity and mutual safety.

### (3) ODA history and achievements

As was previously mentioned, 1954 marked Japan's entrance into the Colombo Plan. Now, more than 40 years have passed since governmental based technical cooperation was first provided to other Asian nations.

Japan, ranked first in the world in ODA for the years 1991-1993. 1993 contributions totaled nearly 11.5 billion dollars (0.26% of the GNP).

However when looking at the ODA-GNP ratio,

Japan ranked 18th out of the 21 advanced countries which comprise the DAC (Development Assistance Committee).

Table 1 shows the changes in provisions of ODA broken down into 4 main time periods.

- Term 1

(Postwar compensation term): 1954–1963

- Term 2

(Increased assistance term): 1964–1976

- Term 3

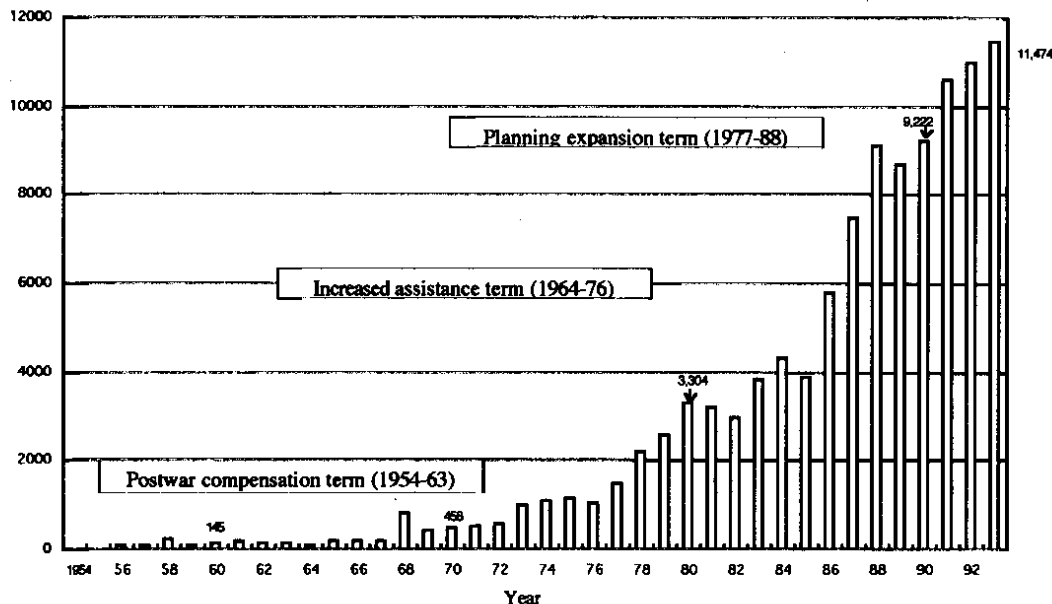
(Planning expansion term): 1977–1988

- Term 4

(Top donor term): 1989–present

Table 2 shows ODA, categorized by forms.

**Table 1 ODA Provision**



**Table 2 Forms of ODA (1954–1994)**

Form of Assistance	Assistance		¥ base (100 million ¥)		Structural comparison (%)	
	Amount	% of previous year	Amount	% of previous year	ODA total	Bilateral
Grant aid	2,402.90	19.0	2,456.48	9.5	17.8	24.8
(Excluding assistance for Eastern Europe)	2,313.73	20.0	2,365.33	10.4	17.5	24.2
Technical cooperation	3,020.31	16.1	3,087.67	6.7	22.4	31.2
(Excluding assistance for Eastern Europe)	2,985.44	16.1	3,052.02	6.8	22.6	31.2
Donation total	5,423.21	17.4	5,544.15	7.9	40.3	56.0
(Excluding assistance for Eastern Europe)	5,299.18	17.8	5,417.35	8.3	40.0	55.4
Government loans etc.	4,257.27	20.1	4,352.21	10.5	31.6	44.0
(Excluding assistance for Eastern Europe)	4,258.61	20.1	4,353.58	10.5	32.2	44.6
Bilateral ODA	9,680.48	18.6	9,896.36	9.0	71.9	100.0
(Excluding assistance for Eastern Europe)	9,557.79	18.8	9,770.93	9.3	72.2	100.0
Donations and investments for international organizations (Excluding donations for EBRD)	3,788.13	14.5	3,872.61	5.2	28.1	
	3,680.71	14.5	3,762.79	5.3	27.8	
ODA total						
(including Eastern Europe, EBRD)	13,468.62	17.4	13,768.97	7.9	100.0	
(excluding Eastern Europe, EBRD)	13,238.50	17.6	13,533.72	8.1	100.0	
Nominal GNP prompt report value	4,628.55	15.2	4,731.77	0.6		
Ratio vs. GNP (%)						
(including Eastern Europe, EBRD)	0.29		0.29			
(excluding Eastern Europe, EBRD)	0.29		0.29			

Note: 1994 DAC specified rate: \$1=¥102.23 (¥8.95 stronger than 1993)  
Because some figures have been rounded off, some of the totals may be incongruent  
EBRD=European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Authority: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bureau for Economic Assistance "Japan's Official Development Assistance - ODA White Paper" 1994.

#### (4) Forms of International Cooperation

In the past, ODA intermediate goals were established approximately every 5 years. Those results and future progress policies were used to determine the present ODA net which was established by the Cabinet in June of 1992.

In the past 20 years, intermediate goals were established a total of five times. Specifics and the degree to which these goals were fulfilled are shown in Table 3. The forms of cooperation and the instigating organizations are shown in Table 4.

##### 1) Grant aids

Grant aids, simply put, are donations which the Japanese government provides to the governments of developing countries. Grant aid provides assistance to developing countries which are suffering due to lack of funding for various activities designed to promote development in a variety of fields. Assistance can be used to fund the establishment of institutions and buildings, or materials and equipment supplies which may be necessary for the implementation plans for social and economic development.

Forms of cooperation can be classified into 6 different categories: General grants, marine grants, disaster emergency assistance, cultural grants, food supplies, and assistance for production of foods.

The JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), established in 1974, has taken charge of the ODA activities.

##### • Grant aid

Provides funding for the purchase of buses and trucks, and the establishment of hospitals, schools, and food storage facilities in the fields of medicine, education, agriculture, and transportation.

##### • Marine grants

Provides necessary funding for investigative vessels, training vessels, and marine research facilities for the development of marine resources.

##### • Assistance for the production of foods

Provides necessary funding for fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, and farm equipment necessary for the production of foods.

Recently, in an effort to more effectively utilize the facilities which were constructed and maintained using grants, technical cooperation and projects which combine 1) dispatching Japanese specialists to recipient countries, 2) training of recipient country researchers, and 3) provision of necessary equipment, are increasing.

##### 2) Technical cooperation

In an effort to promote economic and social development in developing nations, cooperation at a variety of different levels and fields, in accordance with the varying conditions in countries is a necessity. Regions which receive technical cooperation must emphasize the cultivation of personnel which is the foundation or "software" of development in developing nations.

Technical cooperation covers a broad range of areas, from health and medicine (the fields which are the foundation of human lifestyles) to computers and other sophisticated state of the art technological fields. Japan is expected to impart its technology and know-how to those who comprise the mainstay in other countries. Through these newly educated people, others can also learn and to contribute to the development of their country. Different forms of technical cooperation are shown in Table 5.

##### 3) Compensatory assistance

Compensatory assistance is generally referred to "yen loans" and are direct governmental loans. These long term, low interest loans are designed to provide funding for development in developing nations.

There have been various discussions about the pros and cons of providing loans rather than grants, but it is now believed that it may be easier to meet developing nations' demands for large sums of money by providing loans. Additionally, it is believed that the responsibility placed on developing nations to make reimbursements for their loans will actually promote those countries' strive towards independence.

Forms of cooperation are classified into 2 groups, project loans and non-project loans.

Table 3 Outline of ODA Intermediate Goals

	First stage intermediate goals established May 1978	Second stage intermediate goals established 1/23/1981	Third stage intermediate goals established 9/18/1985	Fourth stage intermediate goal established 6/14/88	Fifth stage intermediate goal established 6/25/93
Specifics	Double the 1977 ODA assistance of \$1.42 billion by 1980.	<p>The government will actively strive towards increasing ODA and improving the GNP ratio. Specifically, in the period from 1981-85 double the total figure attained in the latter half of the 1970s (\$10.6 billion).</p> <p>In order to accomplish these goals, (1) in the first half of the 1980s work to raise the nation's budget designated to ODA to double that of the latter half of the 1970s, (2) actively increase government loans and (3) actively comply with requests from international development financial institutions for increased investing.</p>	<p>1. In the years following 1986, improve the ODA-GNP ratio, and while considering the financial situation, strive towards the provision of \$40 billion in assistance. In order to achieve this, increased grant aid and technical cooperation, increased assistance through international financial institutions, improved lending of yen, and along with striving towards doubling the amount of 1985 assistance by the year 1992, make as many and all necessary improvements.</p> <p>2. Consider assistance which will effectively promote the economic and social development of developing nations. For this purpose, a complete implementation of technical and financial cooperation are a necessity. Strive toward the effective and efficient securing of ODA through the promotion of cooperation between other assisting nations and international institutions.</p>	<p>1. Within the stage's time frame, Japan's share of the advanced donor countries ODA should be raised to a standard which is representative of its economic scale. In the coming 5 years of 1988-92, strive to double the past 5 year (1983-87) total ODA of \$25 billion to \$50 billion.</p> <p>In addition, GNP ratio of ODA should be improved.</p> <p>2. Under the basic policy of supporting the self-effort of developing countries, cooperation met with their needs should be provided generally, functionally, and flexibly.</p>	<p>1. In the five year period of 1993-97, strive towards providing \$70-75 billion in assistance, and improve the ODA-GNP ratio.</p> <p>2. In order to improve the quality of the various developmental stages and requests by developing countries, should be provided in the form of grant aid, technical cooperation and yen loans.</p> <p>Furthermore, provide ODA while maintaining direct investing, trade, and organic relationships, and strive towards the promotion of development in developing nations.</p> <p>3. Provide assistance while remaining conscious of the points of interest in the ODA net.</p> <p>4. Establish and fortify an assistance implementation system to secure the effective and efficient implementation of ODA.</p>
Degree of achievement	1980 donations reached \$3.3 billion, easily fulfilling the goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donations in the second intermediate goal period (1981-1985) reached \$18.7 billion, 84.6% of the \$21.36 billion goal.</li> <li>The cumulative total budget from 1981-85 was \$2.4307 trillion, nearly fulfilling the specified goal (98%).</li> </ul>	<p>Because of the effects of the strengthened yen after 1986, it was believed that the goals set in the third intermediate goals could be met with a reasonable amount of certainty. Therefore, in the May 1987 "Emergency Economic Measures", the time frame for the achievement of the established goals was shortened by 2 years.</p>	<p>Assistance:</p> <p>1988: \$9,134 billion 1989: \$9,965 billion 1990: \$9,772 billion 1991: \$11,034 billion 1992: \$9,686 billion</p> <p>% of goal met: 99.4%</p> <p>Goal of \$50 billion nearly met.</p>	

Table 4 Types of ODA and Implementing Institutions

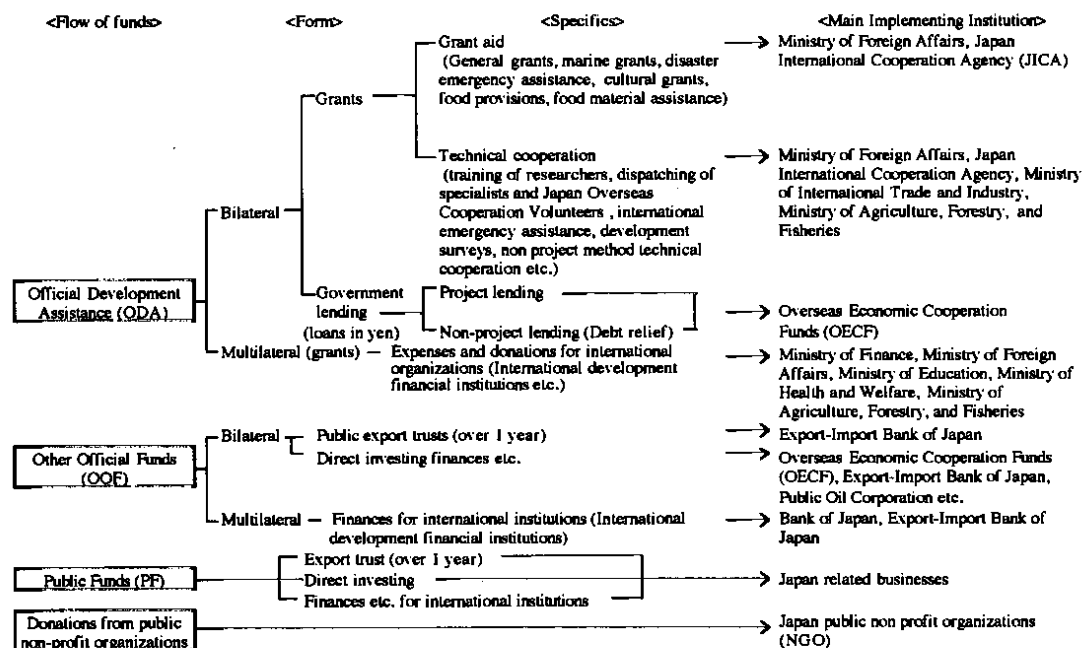
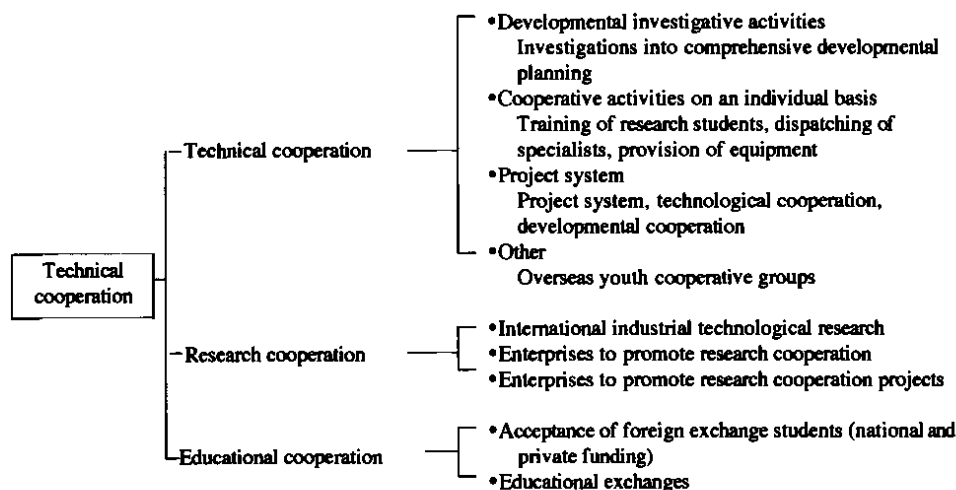


Table 5 Forms of Technical Cooperation



#### 4) Donations and investments for international organizations

Even international organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development are handling the issues of development and stability in developing

countries as problems facing the present international social system. Accordingly, the UN General Assembly, the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) under the OECD, also have been holding discussions on a wide

variety of issues.

The world bank and other financial institutions for international development including the United Nations Development Plan (UNDP), the Consultation Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and other international institutions which are based on technical cooperation, are providing assistance for development and improvements on the socio-economic front. Forms of assistance are shown in Table 5.

(5) International cooperation in Japan

Let's take a look at the differences in international cooperative activities in DAC countries and Japan.

- 1) High ratio of yen loans are provided for the establishment of an infrastructure.
- 2) Centered around Asia. (60-70%)
- 3) High ratio of untied grants
- 4) Few assistance directors
- 5) Support for the development of humanistic resources (education and cultivation of personnel) in various international cooperative activities is actively being pursued.

(6) Future trends

Finally, let's look at the future of Japan's international cooperative activities.

The goals directed toward the quality and quantity of ODA are noted in the June 1991 report, "Choices for the Year 2010", composed by the 2010 Committee which was established by the Economic Council. However, advanced nations' economic woes and other changes in international conditions have given birth to "Assistance overload", caused by the burden of providing so much assistance.

Based on these situations, lastly, Japan's international cooperation focal points were summarized.

1) Areas for assistance

Continued focus on regions in Asia

Japan has enjoyed close historical, geographical, political and economic relations with Asia. The maintenance and expansion of economic development in the Asian region serves to both promote the international economy and provide assistance to the numerous victims of poverty. At the same time, consideration must also be given to the Least De-

veloped Countries (LLDC), the problems of poverty, and economic difficulties facing the rest of the world.

2) Forms of assistance

A. Tackling global problems

Because problems on a global scale such as environmental problems and population problems, require cooperation from both developing and advanced nations, support of efforts from developing nations should be provided.

B. Devotion to Basic Human Needs

Support and emergency assistance centered around Basic Human Needs (BHN) should be provided to those victimized by starvation and poverty.

C. Provision of assistance for the cultivation of personnel, research, and the advancement and spread of technology.

Because people are the foundation for the development of nations, emphasis should be placed on the cultivation of personnel. This is believed to be the most important aspect in long term efforts towards the movement towards independence.

Promote cooperation which will give rise to the advancement and spread of technology, and research assistance which will improve the developing nations' adaptability and research development ability.

D. Support preparation and maintenance of infrastructures

Emphasize support for the maintenance and preparation of infrastructures which is fundamental to the development of an economic society.

E. Support structural adjustments

Using the market mechanism as a basis, strive to provide suitable support which will allow citizens to fully display their originality and vitality in efforts to resolve accumulated debts and make economic structural adjustments.

In the future, we hope that Japan's international cooperation will become a form of government-citizen unified international cooperation, which is an

international contributor on a global level.

## 2-2 International cooperation at the local level

### (1) Present international cooperation conditions

As represented by ODA, activities which revolve around expenses and necessary infrastructure preparations show these special features.

However, international cooperative affairs that are conducted at the local city level meet many financial problems because of restricted budgets, and grants for the preparation of infrastructures or the purchase of expensive products cannot always be provided. Thus, the regional level is marked by a trend towards affairs which stress the cultivation of personnel.

Table 5 shows the special features of the various types of cooperation, classified into technical cooperation, economic cooperation and those affairs conducted in conjunction with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). International cooperation of ordinance-designated city are marked by the cultivation of personnel, namely, the training of recipient city technicians in the fields of medicine, construction, fire fighting, and the environment. Additionally, activities done in conjunction with JICA include the short term training of recipient country technical students.

### (2) Recognition of Local Cities' Internationalization Policies Promotion

#### A. Development of national policies for regional internationalization

Japan's economic development has elevated its international position to the extent that speech and behavior from Japan already exert an influence on international society. This is evident not only in the economic sphere but in the political and social realms as well. The internationalization wave impacts the country not only at the national level but embraces regional cities as well.

In order to support the promotion of local governments' internationalization policies, the Ministry of Home Affairs established an International Exchange Planning Officer within the Ministry in 1986 and has

implemented the following policy applications. Additionally, an International Affairs Office was established in 1993 for the comprehensive promotion of regional internationalization.

#### Ministry of Home Affairs Internationalization Policies

- 1) Complete financial measures for the promotion of internationalization
- 2) Promote overseas youth invitation projects to carry out language study guidance, etc.
- 3) Establish national organizations and overseas core facilities for the promotion of regional internationalization
- 4) Cooperate in establishing regional internationalization associations as the core organs of regional internationalization
- 5) Further exchange among sister cities
- 6) Cultivate personnel that can deal effectively with internationalization

This explanation is abbreviated but, generally speaking, the national government presents local governments with the fundamental principles guiding internationalization, and joins with them to work to bring it about.

#### B. Recognition of local cities' internationalization policies

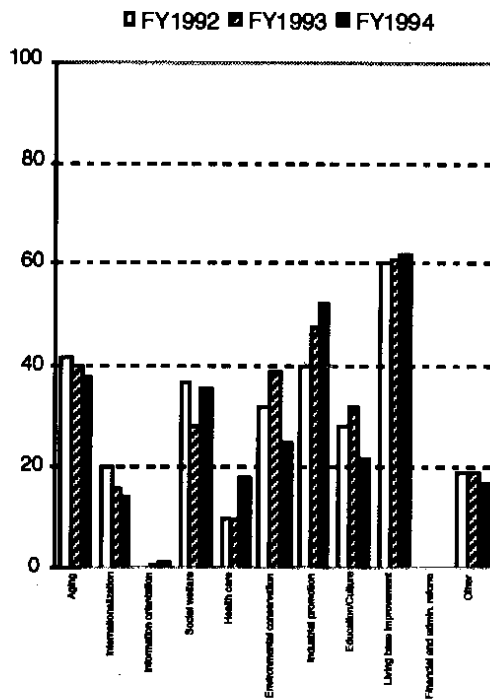
As the following tables show, to quote the survey on critical policies implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs' Regional Policy Office, "While regional cities recognize the necessity for internationalization policies, they give such policies a lower priority than other policies."

As shown in Tables 6 and 7, the leading policies of local governments emphasize life-style improvement, industrial promotion, social welfare, and educational projects; the ranking of internationalization policies is low. Moreover, regarding the future development of leading policies, Tables 8 and 9 anticipate no diminishing of the importance of the "big three" (life-style improvement, industrial promotion, and educational projects); regional internationalization will maintain its low ranking, but the trend will be upward.

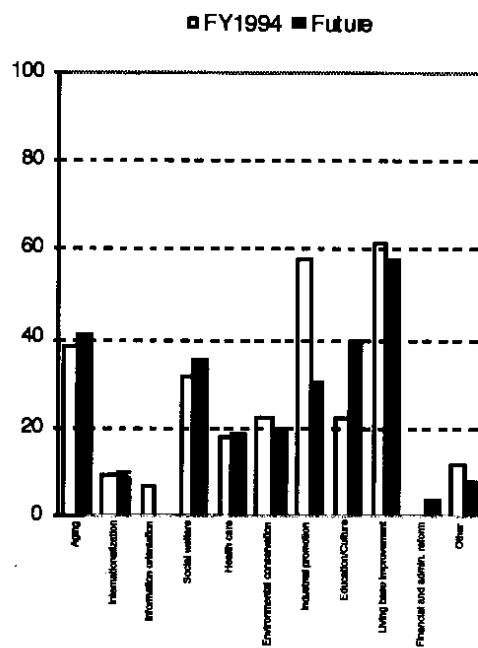
Also, patterned after the Ministry of Home Af-



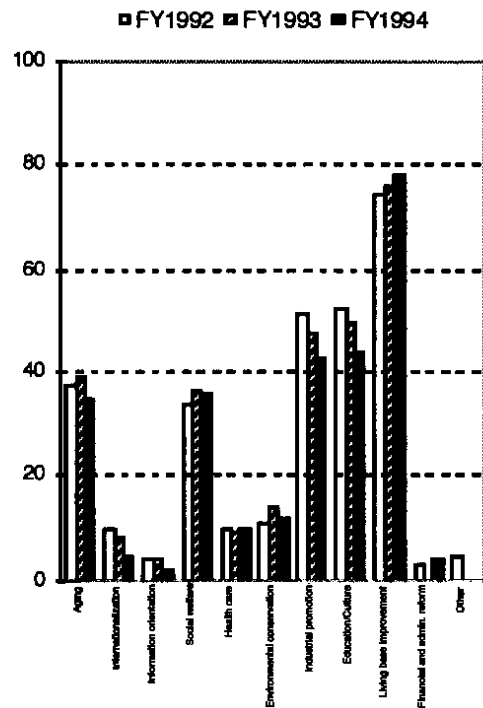
**Table 6** Important policies from fiscal 92-94  
(Local Gov.)



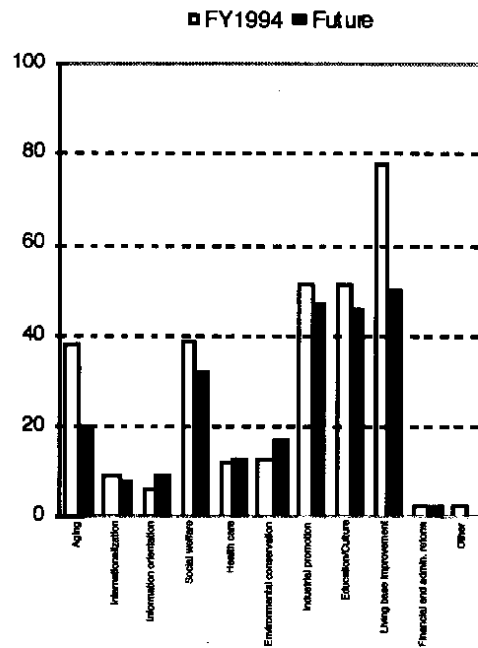
**Table 8** Important policies in the near future  
(Local Gov.)



**Table 7** Important policies from fiscal 92-94  
(Leading City)



**Table 9** Important policies in the near future  
(Leading City)



fairs' International Exchange City Promotion Project, policies will be divided into those concerning foreigners residing in Japan and those promoting international exchange.

The main policies in the former category concern foreigner counseling offices, improving the home-stay registry system, and setting up public signs in foreign languages. The latter embraces internationalization policies implemented by various cities, including the creation of guidebooks, exchange of friendship groups, and establishment of international exchange associations.

### **3. Types of Measures for Internationalization**

#### **3-1 Positioning of Hiroshima's Internationalization Policy**

##### **(1) Positioning of Hiroshima's internationalization policy in its master plan**

This chapter will examine how Hiroshima's internationalization policy been positioned and developed up to the present. As shown in Table 11, "A Brief History of Hiroshima's International Relations," Hiroshima began internationalizing 1300 years ago in 618, when it started constructing a boat to carry Japanese diplomatic missions to Chinese dynasties. Then, experiencing the first atomic bomb in world and human history on August 6, 1945 precipitated a conspicuous development in its level of international exchange (internationalization). This event gave Hiroshima City a position in the world and established peace-seeking as its permanent policy. With in this historical context, let us trace the course of the internationalization policies implemented by Hiroshima City. Below is a summary of how Hiroshima's internationalization policies have been positioned year by year within its master (basic) plan.

##### **1) Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law (August 1949)**

The concept behind this law was to "aim at the construction of Hiroshima as a Peace Memorial city, a symbol of the ideal of making lasting peace a reality." The nation and the region jointly under-

took post-war reconstruction with Hiroshima as a symbol of world peace.

##### **2) Hiroshima City Comprehensive Plan (March 1970)**

Holding that, "... we can expect future economic growth, information orientation, internationalization, and the technological revolution, ... to bring about a great transformation," the plan set forth the image of Hiroshima as an "International City of Peace and Culture."

##### **3) Hiroshima City New Basic Plan (September 1978)**

This plan established the promotion of domestic and international exchange (promotion of peace and or cultural goodwill exchanges) and the preparation of peace memorial facilities.

##### **4) Hiroshima City Third Basic Plan (May 1989)**

This plan ensured the concrete development of endeavors to bring about internationalization (promotion of international exchange with peace as the keynote, promotion of a messe convention city, internationalization of the economy, creating a more international urban infrastructure and urban environment).

##### **5) Hiroshima International City Promotion Plan (March 1990)**

A section of the Third Basic Plan called for the systematic organization of international exchange projects and measures dealing with internationalization to facilitate the establishment of general principles for Hiroshima's internationalization policies.

##### **6) Plan to Promote International Exchange with Asia (March 1992)**

This clarified the direction of international policies up to the present, the achievements of exchanges with various Asian countries, and development policies for concrete measures to bring about desirable future exchanges.

##### **7) New Century City Vision for Hiroshima (November 1994)**

This served as a compass needle of Hiroshima City's newest community development, clarifying and systematizing the integration of Hiroshima's community development measures toward the 21st

century.

Internationalization policies were laterally interwoven with "city of peace creation," "city that fosters and constructively engages its people and technology," "construction of a bridge toward world peace," and "promotion of cultural exchanges between the world and the region."

Each of the plans summarized here was shaped by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial City Construction Law. With this law as the guiding principle behind Hiroshima city's post-war rebuilding, the national government established Hiroshima as the Japanese symbol of peace to the world, and a vigorous urban reconstruction began. Comprehensive city plans (First, Second, Third, and Fourth) were created in 1970, 1978, 1989, and 1994. In all of these the major internationalization policies emphasized "hard" aspects such as preparation of facilities, but the Fourth Basic Plan also emphasized policies concerning "soft" aspects. The "Hiroshima International City Promotion Plan" is a section of the comprehensive plan (which generally employs ten-year targets) and the implementation plan (plans on how to actualize the various projects); it determined for the first time how internationalization policies should develop within city facilities. Also, the "Plan to Promote Exchange with Asia" adopted in 1992 promoted policies for the development of Asia-centered internationalization policies. In other words, a rebirth of the concept of fusing with Asia is replacing that of looking away from Asia.

Then, the "New Century City Vision for Hiroshima" adopted in 1994 points to a concept that differs from its predecessors. It replaces the traditional vertically-oriented internationalization policy with a working policy that includes horizontal elements; the actual projects undertaken also display this change.

#### (2) Hiroshima's internationalization policies

Under the various plans mentioned above, the structural organization of the present internationalization policies is as follows. With peace as the axis of the overall structure, under the basic understanding that we wish to develop our community as

one open to the world, we are working on various measures divided categorically into those 1) promoting world peace, 2) promoting international exchange, and 3) promoting messe conventions.

- 1) Promoting world peace
  - Raise peace consciousness
  - Promote international peace-related endeavors
  - Promote surveys and research related to peace
  - Prepare peace memorial facilities
- 2) Promote international exchange
  - Raise the international consciousness of the citizenry
  - Promote various kinds of international exchange
  - Prepare the foundation for international exchange
- 3) Promote messe conventions
  - Prepare and perfect messe convention facilities
  - Sponsor and attract international conferences, trade fairs, and events

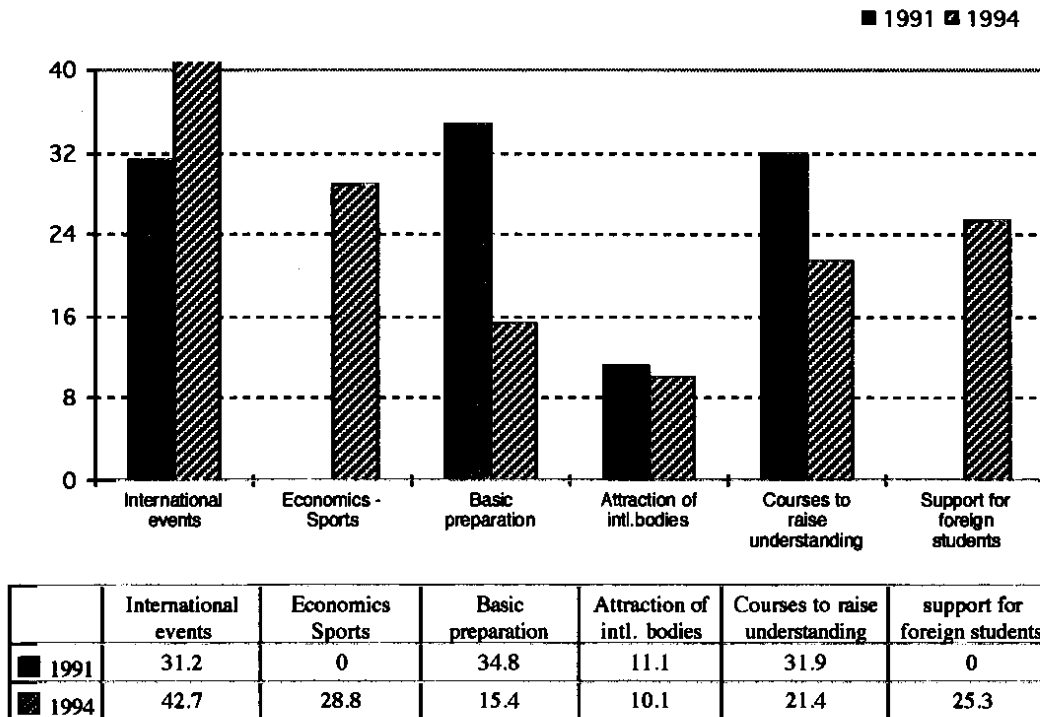
As was mentioned above, the three basic directions of international policy in Hiroshima, "promoting world peace", "promoting international exchange", and "promoting international economic development (messe convention)", have come about due to special historical and geographical features of Hiroshima. In the future we believe that this keynote will be passed on to future generations.

### 3-2 Issues and Prospects for Internationalization Policies in the Future

#### (1) Citizens' consciousness of internationalization

Once every five years Hiroshima City surveys citizen awareness in many fields. This table compares how consciousness of internationalization changed between 1991 and 1994. Responses to the question "In order for Hiroshima to develop as an international city, what kinds of internationalization policies should be emphasized?" are compared by relative percentage in the table.

Table 10 Changes in Citizens' Consciousness of Internationalization



As can be seen, the citizens' consciousness of internationalization is shifting from a "hard" to a "soft" orientation.

#### 4. Regional International Cooperation Methods — Hiroshima City as an Example —

##### 4-1 Concepts of international cooperation

Our country's role in the theater of international cooperation continues to grow and is marked by an increasing necessity for regional international cooperative activities. Hiroshima, as one link in the "creation of Peace", seized the opportunity provided by the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb, and established the Hiroshima International Cooperation Fund. At the municipal level, the city's international cooperative activities have resulted in contributions to world peace and development as well as universalization of the spirit of Hiroshima.

ODA which has been implemented on the national level, and has centered around the maintenance and establishment of infrastructures, should be used as a

model for Hiroshima's international cooperative activities which should be based on mutual understanding at the municipal level and equal partnership, as is shown below.

##### (1) "Cooperation" rather than "Assistance"

Establish the spirit of "Coexistence" which should be based on the recognition that mutual international cooperation is an important aspect of both, the development of both cities involved and improvements in citizens' welfare.

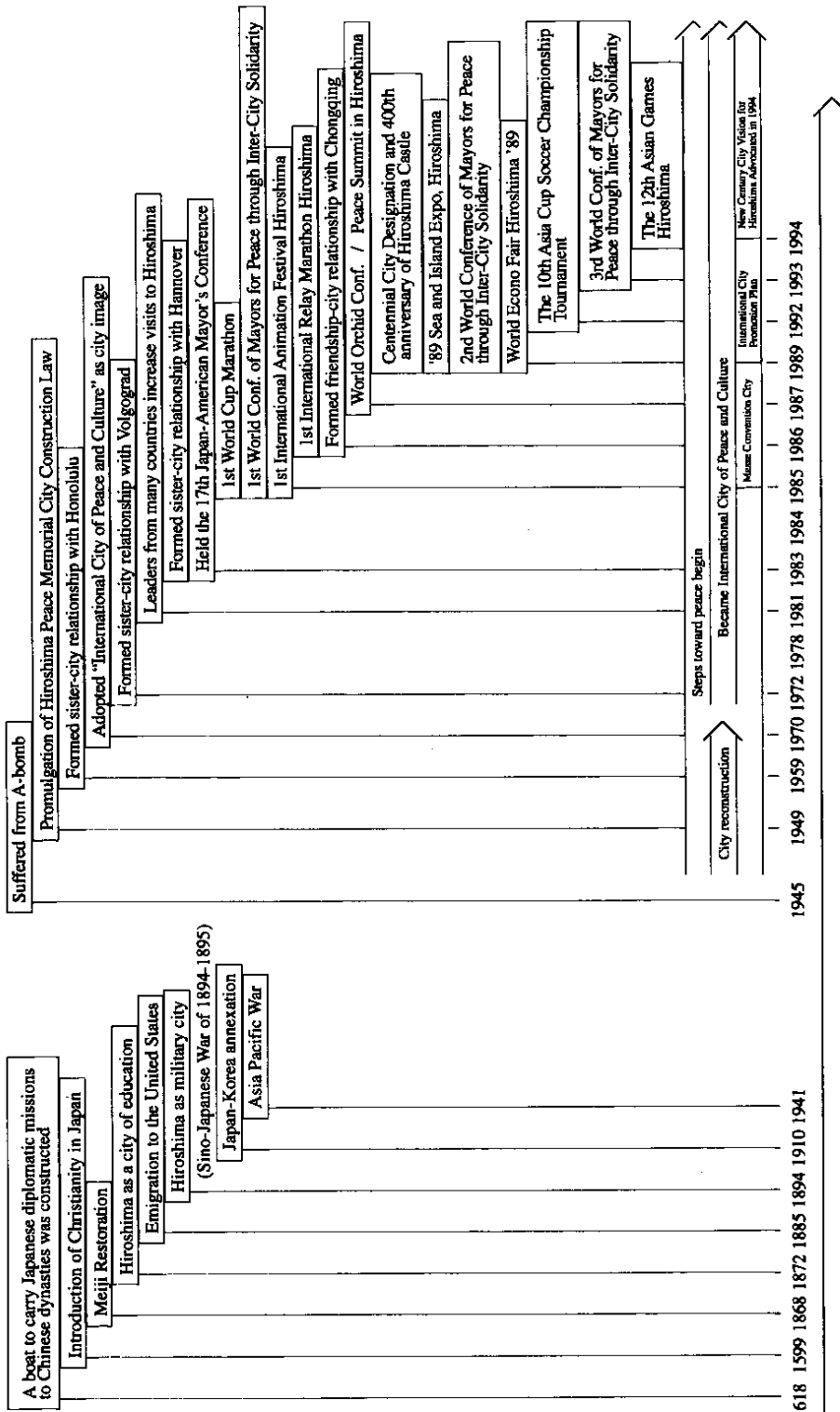
##### (2) Equal partnership is the foundation for cooperation with the involvement of citizens

Involvement of regional residents, NGOs, economic organizations, and volunteers, a greater number of people can participate in cooperative activities.

##### (3) Diverse forms of cooperation

Division of roles with the nation to provide large scale infrastructure preparatory cooperation (including loans in yen) present many difficulties at the municipal level. Thus, in an effort to meet the

Table 11 A Brief History of Hiroshima's International Relations



needs of recipient countries, centralize cooperation around exchanges of personnel.

#### 4-2 Selection of cooperative activities

When selecting cooperative activities, it is necessary to set specific selection standards. Keeping this in mind, the following selection standards for target cities and target affairs have been developed.

##### (1) Selection standards for target cities

The following standards have been established for the selection of cities to receive funds.

- 1) The city must have provided a reply to the investigation (survey or interview).
- 2) The city must be approved by the World Conference of Mayors for Peace (includes hailed cities).
- 3) Must be a city in a developing nation (GDP of less than \$1,000).
- 4) Must possess the passion and sincerity of a recipient city.
- 5) A city which is conducive to, and will promote friendly exchanges in the future.

##### (2) Selection standards for activities

The following standards have been established for the selection of activities to receive funds.

- 1) The activity must have been emphasized in replies to this city's investigation (survey or interview).
- 2) The activity must be aimed at the provision of relief from starvation and poverty, and the resolution of municipal problems (including environmental, welfare, and educational problems) for the improvement of the welfare of citizens.
- 3) The activity must be aimed at the promotion of postwar revival from regional conflicts and internal problems.
- 4) The expenses for the activity must be within the delegated budget framework.
- 5) As a rule, a 1 year support period has been established, however, depending on the situation, two year extensions may be provided.

It is believed that by using these standards to select cities and activities, selections can be made

with a reasonable amount of objectivity.

#### 4-3 Type of cooperative support

If Regional support will be provided to overseas cities, the form of support should be grant aid or technical cooperation, which JICA has been providing considering its nature. The figure below shows the form of support of ODA, and that of regional support is explained below the figure.

### 5. Conclusion

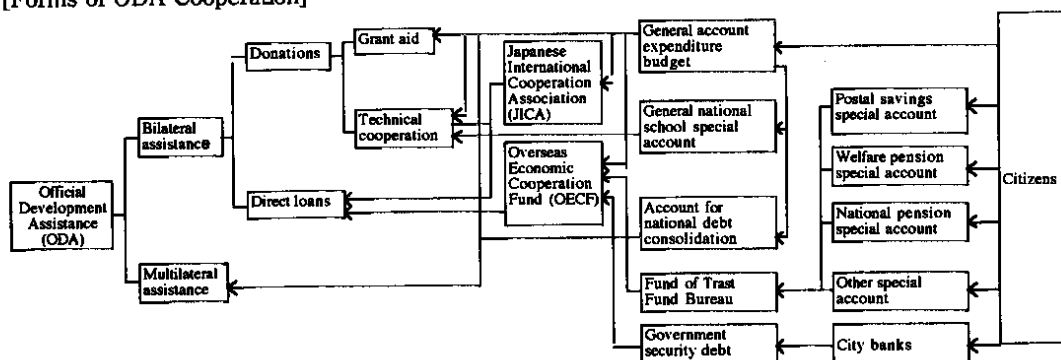
International cooperation at the national level, extends back many years and has greatly contributed to, and steadily produces results in developing nations' (especially Asian nations) economic development and welfare improvement. However, even though Japan is the world's largest donor country from the financial perspective, it is not fully recognized for its contributions. Several causes have been pointed out, one of which is that ODA is "hard" assistance and does not stress the "softer" mental and spiritual assistance. However, even though one of the ODA net's 4 principles, "the importance of consideration of humanistic assistance" has been promoted, the lack of recognition still remains.

In a word, it can be said that international cooperation and contributory activities are being promoted, but because cooperation is being provided to culture, religion, customs, and political systems in a foreign culture, this support which looks good superficially, may actually be failing to consider the recipient countries' needs and may actually be somewhat of a hindrance. Therefore, careful attention must be paid.

Promotion of international cooperation and contributory activities at the municipal level must face these issues in the same manner as the aforementioned national institutions, and remain alert. Funds for regional cooperation are small in scale and may not be able to meet the recipient cities' expectations.

For that reason, it is necessary to emphasize the softer, human aspects rather than the maintenance

### [Forms of ODA Cooperation]



### [Forms of Hiroshima City Cooperation]

#### Types of regional cooperation

- 1) As a rule, cash will not be provided, products will be sent from Japan
- 2) Grant aid will be provided
  - Grant aid ————— Financial assistance which does not need to be repaid.
  - Provision of materials and machinery. Provision of equipment
- 3) Technical cooperation
  - Technical cooperation ——— Technical cooperation ——— Training of trainees and dispatching of personnel
  - Research cooperation ——— Collaboration on research products
  - Training and dispatch of researchers and specialists

of the infrastructure. We would like to stress the effective utilization of the human resources which are both plentiful, full of latent potential, and can be a major force in international cooperation and contributory activities. Although these steady efforts may take some time, it is firmly believed that they will, in the long run, produce great results and receive wide recognition.

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