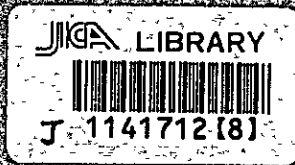


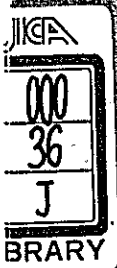
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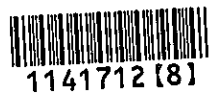
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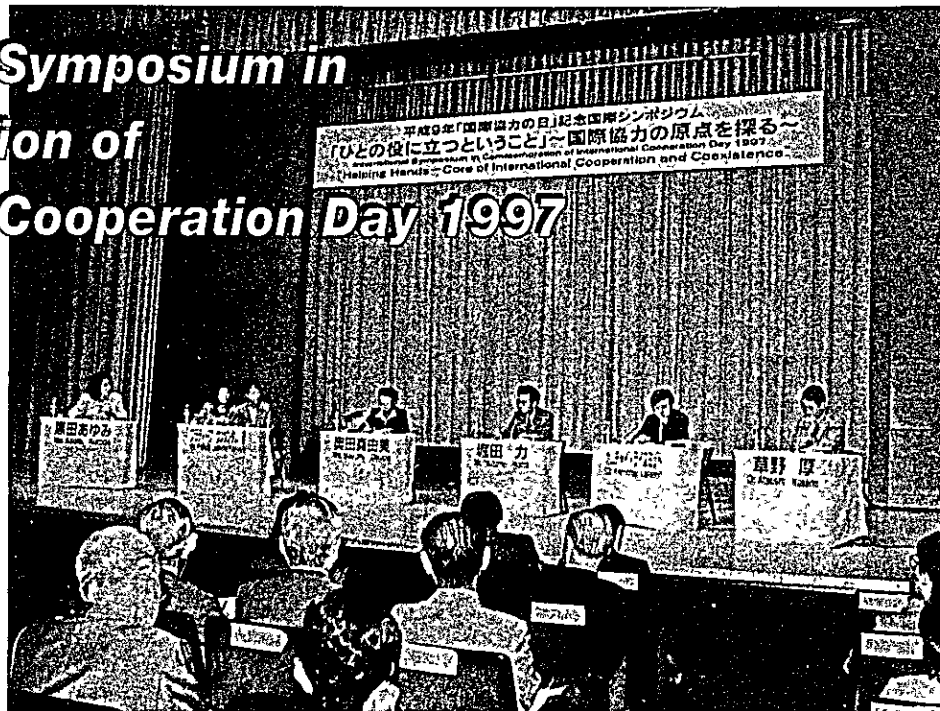
**Japan International Cooperation Agency
The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan**





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International Symposium in Commemoration of International Cooperation Day 1997



OUTLINE OF THE SYMPOSIUM

On October 6, 1997, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan jointly organized the 1996 International Symposium in Commemoration of "International Cooperation Day" at the Yurakucho Asahi Hall in Tokyo. "International Cooperation Day" (October 6) was established in 1987 to commemorate the day in 1954 when Japan joined the Colombo Plan and assumed its position as an ODA donor. The symposium was attended by 589 participants, including many private citizens, NGOs, students, and other individuals and organizations from Japan and overseas, who share an interest in the field of international cooperation.

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Theme: *Helping Hands — Core of International Cooperation and Coexistence*

October 6 is International Cooperation Day in Japan. This year marks the tenth year since its inception. Today, citizen group NGOs have been stepping up their activities in tandem with official development assistance (ODA) in the provision of international cooperation to developing countries.

Can we, as global citizens, do something for those people around the world who are confronted with hardship? In our search for the meaning of "Helping Hands" we will contemplate the concept of "living together" held by those who endorse international cooperation.

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SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

● **Theme** *Helping Hands— Core of International Cooperation and Coexistence*

■ **Opening (14:00~14:10)**

Opening Speeches: **Mr. Kimio Fujita**, *President of JICA*
 Mr. Akira Nishigaki, *President, Chairman of the Board of OECF, Japan*

■ **Panel Discussion (14:10~17:00)**

Coordinator:

Ms. Ayumi Kuroda, *Anchorperson, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)*

Panelist / First Speaker:

Ms. Prateep Ungsongtham Hata, *General Secretary, Duang Prateep Foundation, Thailand*
(NGO representative working to improve living conditions in slums. Recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award.)

Panelists:

Ms. Mayumi Okuda, *Staff of Health Services Facility for the Aged “Sukoyaka-en”,
Occupational Therapist (Ex-Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer)*

Mr. Tsutomu Hotta, *President of Sawayaka Welfare Foundation, and Lawyer*

Dr. Kamchai Laismit, *Assistant Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics,
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand*

Dr. Atsushi Kusano, *Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University*

(Presenters listed in speaking order.)



Mr. Kimio Fujita

President, Japan International Cooperation Agency

First, I would like to thank you all for finding the time to attend this year's International Symposium in Commemoration of International Cooperation Day. As the Master of Ceremonies just pointed out, Japan began extending official development assistance 43 years ago today. It therefore seems fitting that we consider October 6 the anniversary of Japan's entry into the field of international assistance. Of course, Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the years since has grown in volume and improved in its quality. Though Japan has faced serious difficulties, as a leading donor it has over the years, through repeated trial and error along the way, effectively aided the cause of world peace and development.

Human development, national development, and bringing people together are among the principal ideals that have inspired the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to focus its energies in the arena of human resources development as a foundation for infrastructural advances throughout the developing world. Right now, JICA has a combined total of 5,000 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), experts, and other members all working on assignments around the globe. Each and every one of those individuals has helped to give Japanese ODA a more familiar face, and actively serves as a bridge to closer ties and understanding with the rest of the world.

As it happens, I recently had the opportunity to tour various ODA project sites in four Central American countries, and was deeply impressed to see how well our aid volunteers and experts had adjusted to the local customs and ways of life, and how devoted they were to working together with their local counterpart technicians despite formidable differences in climate and other conditions. "I learned far more than I taught." "The experience totally changed my outlook on life." Such are the remarks often made by veteran JOCV members and experts. To me, they are expressing a realization obtained in the course of their day-to-day contact with other people in other cultures: a realization of the importance of stepping beyond national, ethnic, and religious confines to work

together as equal partners and learn how to build a better future for peaceful coexistence on our small planet. Though the endeavors of each individual at this level may seem modest and time-consuming, I am convinced that they help to sow the seeds of mutual trust, ultimately setting the stage for lasting ties of friendship and trust among nations.

Incidentally, as a trend complementary to the provision of ODA itself, many NGOs and local governments have also become seriously involved in the field of international assistance. Grassroots participatory undertakings of various kinds have begun springing up as more and more citizens actively strive to transcend national boundaries and become directly involved in projects with their counterparts abroad. Though they may appear varied in terms of the approaches they take to participation in the arena of international cooperation itself, government assistance and private-led forms of assistance by NGOs and other entities are nonetheless driven by virtually identical ideals and goals. JICA is in the process of building on its record of cooperation with NGOs and local governments active in the field.

This year I would like to join our symposium panelists and all participants here in exploring the significance of several notions fundamental to the pursuit of international cooperation: namely, "helping hands," "helping and being helped," and "living together."

In closing, let me urge that everyone become actively involved in the discussions that ensue.

Thank you.

Opening Speech



Mr. Akira Nishigaki

*President, Chairman of the Board,
The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan*

First, my deepest gratitude to everyone for sparing the time to come. As a representative for one of the sponsors, I am pleasantly surprised to see such a large turnout.

Measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Japan ranks second only to the U.S. as a global economic superpower. Nonetheless, on many other fronts including trade and energy, it is still heavily dependent on the rest of the world. This reality underscores the absolute necessity of maintaining a peaceful world if Japan itself is to enjoy continued peace and prosperity. That is one reason why many nations anticipate that Japan will continue to place stress on its foreign relations and maintain official development assistance (ODA) as a cornerstone for its contributions to the international community at large.

In the face of such expectations, Japan has steadily enlarged its ODA spending despite increasingly serious financial strains. During the 1960s, Japan was the world's fifth-largest donor of ODA, and accounted for about 5 percent of all ODA disbursed by countries on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In the 1990s, though, Japan had become the world's top-ranked donor of ODA, providing as much as 20 percent of the DAC total.

One distinguishing feature of Japanese ODA is that it consists largely of loan assistance—ODA loans, to be exact. The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan (OECF) is responsible for extending these loans, and as such, to date it has committed a cumulative total of about ¥16 trillion in loans to 85 developing countries worldwide. As one consequence, Japan is now the largest ODA donor for as many as 55 such countries, or about 20 if measured in terms of OECF-led loan assistance alone.

At present, close to 80 percent of all humankind resides in developing countries, most in serious need of aid. Though the populations in these countries have been steadily expanding, in many donor countries the corresponding pace of population growth has leveled off. These trends have several implications: namely, that aid must be maximally utilized, and the number of self-reliant countries, increased.

Following the last World War, Japan received

significant infusions of assistance from the U.S. and the World Bank. In the process, it nurtured and harnessed its spirit of self-reliance, and on that basis resurrected itself from the devastation of war and entered a new era of powerful economic growth. This experience has furnished one of the philosophical foundations for Japanese aid policy today: namely, that the purpose of assistance is to help developing countries shed their dependence on aid outright, and shape their own developmental future from a position of self-reliance.

Driven by this ideal of "aid for self-reliance," over the more than 30 years since its inception in 1996, the OECF has been instrumental in aiding Asia's development, primarily through the extension of ODA loans for infrastructure projects. Its contributions have materialized in many forms, from new transportation networks and electric power stations to water and sewerage systems and the effective provision of an array of basic social services.

ODA loans are long-term, low-interest debt instruments. These features have made them suitable financing tools for economic and social infrastructure projects throughout the developing world. Yet largely for that reason, it is anticipated that demand for this particular form of financing will continue to burgeon in the years ahead.

Another problem, though, is that economic advances in the developing world have intensified concerns about environmental disruption. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that the OECF will face an ever-mounting burden of expectation, and indeed, will have an increasingly vital role to play in helping address these environmental strains while funding conventional undertakings in infrastructure development.

Now that many donor countries are exhibiting signs of aid fatigue, we are earnestly hopeful that this symposium will provide an excellent opportunity to engage in a productive discussion of Japan's future ODA role. Furthermore, I should note that we are determined to translate the fruits of this symposium into future action.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who assisted us in bringing about this symposium. May the proceedings serve to broaden public understanding of international cooperation and its value.

Message



Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto
Prime Minister



Mr. Keizo Obuchi
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Today is a day that will go down in the history of Japanese economic cooperation. It was 43 years ago today that Japan joined the Colombo Plan and began providing economic cooperation on a government basis. To honor this day and to foster greater understanding of international cooperation among the people of Japan, the Government of Japan in September 1987 declared October 6 of each year to be "International Cooperation Day".

Since we began providing official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries in 1954, Japan's ODA has grown remarkably in both quality and quantity. Today, Japan is among the world's largest donor countries, providing aid to about 160 countries and regions. That cooperation has earned us high praise and enormous goodwill.

Today marks the first decade since the establishment of "International Cooperation Day" and therefore provides us with an opportunity to take stock of what we have accomplished. During this decade, the people of Japan have grown more interested in international cooperation, and local governments and NGOs have become active in this area. It is therefore appropriate at this time that we should be holding this symposium which attempts to get back to the basics of international cooperation. We in Japan are in an extremely difficult fiscal position at this time, and in order to continue to make the active contributions needed to take us into the 21st century, it will be absolutely necessary that we have the understanding and support of the people for international cooperation. I hope that through the discussions at this symposium, each and every participant will be able to reconfirm the significance of international cooperation, and that this will provide the impetus for international cooperation activities to grow and expand among the people of Japan.

The ties of interdependence are running deeper and deeper in the international community, and one of the weightiest obligations that Japan bears is to make active contributions to the world. The most important of these is official development assistance, or ODA.

It is also a fact, however, that there are many difficult challenges for Japanese ODA to overcome both at home and abroad. Developing countries still face severe poverty, while environment, population, AIDS, refugees and other global-scale issues grow more serious day by day. Economic cooperation for developing countries is of decisive importance in overcoming these problems, but the gaps are widening between the assistance that developed countries are able to provide and the demand for funding that exists in developing countries.

At home, serious fiscal conditions in Japan mean that our ODA must be administered in a far more effective and efficient manner than ever before. We must therefore rethink our ODA from a wide range of perspectives. In April, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a "The Council on ODA Reforms for the Twenty-first Century" with the participation of a broad group of experts. This group is now engaged in a vigorous debate about the future of ODA.

The theme of this symposium is "Helping Hands—Core of International Cooperation and Coexistence." It is my hope that the discussions here today will help set the tone for one of the most important aspects of ODA reform, the creation of an ODA that is open to the people and that the people perceive themselves as having a stake in.



Mr. Koji Omi

Minister of State for Economic Planning

First, I would like everyone to know how delighted I am to join with you in kicking off this International Symposium, an event cosponsored by the JICA and the OECD, Japan.

As you know, the end of the Cold War has seen many former socialist countries make significant strides toward transforming themselves into free-market economies. Many developing countries have in the meantime registered dramatic economic growth. These trends in turn have thrust the world economy into new frontiers, and brought humankind a step closer to full economic globalization.

Nonetheless, conditions of hunger and poverty still predominate throughout much of the developing world. Worse, those conditions are now being compounded by an array of new problems, including environmental pressures of global proportions.

With a new century looming on the horizon, Japan has begun scrambling to act on six key initiatives in reform, all designed essentially to rebuild its own economic system. This has brought pressure to bear for sweeping fiscal change, a process unlikely to leave the ODA budget untouched.

International cooperation, however, has earned recognition over the years as a way of bringing developing countries into the global economic community as partners, and to the benefit of all. It has also been credited for the instrumental role it can and does play in helping us find solutions to problems of a global dimension. These are among the reasons why active Japanese assistance will arguably become even more important in the years ahead, particularly in terms of helping recipient countries assume a more self-reliant role in shaping their own economic destinies. We believe it essential, therefore, that we aim for improved ODA effectiveness or quality, pursue alliances with NGOs as a way of promoting

participatory forms of aid, and seek heightened public understanding and support at home for our official aid policies and programs. The Economic Planning Agency, for its part, is determined to collaborate closely with other Japanese government institutions in crafting together tangible initiatives that will help us achieve these goals.

In view of the rapid changes reshaping our world today, clearly the time has arrived to renew our understanding of the value of international cooperation itself. On that note, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who had a part in bringing this symposium about. May it be a resounding success.

PROFILE

● Coordinator



Ms. Ayumi Kuroda
Anchorperson, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture. Joined NHK after graduating from the Department of Liberal Arts, University of Tokyo. Works as a reporter for NHK on the NC9 program and other major news programs. Currently engaged as an anchorperson on the Life Information Program. Literary works include *Mama denakya Dame* (I Need You, Mummy) published by Magazine House Co., Ltd.

● Panelist / First Speaker



Ms. Prateep Ungsongtham Hata
General Secretary, Duang Prateep Foundation, Thailand

Born in the Klong Toey slum of Bangkok, contributed to the improvement of living standards there by establishing an informal school in the slum as an initial act of humanitarianism, when only 16 years of age. As a result of this effort, the Duang Prateep Foundation was established as an educational and welfare foundation. Received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1978. Known as the Angel of the Slums, she is a mother of two.

● Panelists



Ms. Mayumi Okuda
Staff of Health Services Facility for the Aged "Sukoyaka-en", Occupational Therapist (Ex-Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer)

Born in Hiroshima Prefecture. After working at a hospital following graduation from the School of Allied Medical Sciences, Kobe University, she was dispatched to Tanzania as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in 1993. She worked as an occupational therapist at the Muhimbili Medical Centre, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health for three and a half years before taking up her current position this year.



Mr. Tsutomu Hotta

President of Sawayaka Welfare Foundation, and Lawyer

Graduated from the Faculty of Law, Kyoto University and was appointed as a public prosecutor in 1961. In charge of investigations into the Lockheed bribery case from 1976 as a public prosecutor at the Tokyo District Public Prosecutor's Office. Public prosecutor of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office in 1989 and appointed as the Deputy Vice-Minister of Justice in 1990. Retired in 1991, established, and became president of the Sawayaka Welfare Promotion Center (grown into the Sawayaka Welfare Foundation). Literary works include *Futatabi no Ikigai* (A Second Life) published by Kodansha Ltd. and *Kokoro no Fukkatsu* (Revival of Heart) published by Japan Broadcast Publishing Co., Ltd.



Dr. Kamchai Laismit

Assistant Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Since 1975, studied for 14 years in Japan, including stints in the economics faculties of Kyoto University (Doctoral Course Certificate in 1984) and the University of Tokyo. Assumed current post in 1996. Actively works in both Thailand and Japan as an energetic economist with a thorough knowledge of Japan and the Japanese. Devoted to the expansion of Japan-Thai relations, citing Karaoke as an "important factor for understanding Japanese culture".



Dr. Atsushi Kusano

Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University

Graduated from the Faculty of Law, Keio University. Awarded a Doctor of Sociology degree in International Relations, University of Tokyo, in 1982. Became associate professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology and took up his present position in 1992 after a period as a visiting scholar at the Center of International Studies, Princeton University. Regular commentator on TV Asahi's "Sunday Project". Recent literary works including *ODA no Tadashii Mikata* (The Appropriate Perspective on ODA) by Chikuma Shinsho.

(Presenters listed in speaking order.)

PANEL DISCUSSION

International cooperation: financial and technical assistance aimed at improving life for citizens in the developing world

KURODA: Hello, everyone, I am Ayumi Kuroda, from Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), and I am here today to serve as this symposium's coordinator. I should note at the outset that until recently, I had only indirect knowledge of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan (OECF), and their activities, mostly from reports in the news, articles in written publications, or studies during my school days. I had virtually no chance to see them in action. However, in March this year, JICA kindly allowed me to visit various projects under way at sites in Jordan and Turkey. This afforded me an opportunity to witness firsthand how closely Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and experts worked together with their local counterparts, and how thoroughly Japanese programs of international assistance were being pursued.

I imagine most everyone here has frequently heard international cooperation discussed in the news within the context of Official Development Assistance (ODA). If you will, though, please allow me a few moments to present an overview of international cooperation.

Before getting into that, however, I would like to take this occasion to express my sincere condolences to the families of the two experts on assignment from JICA who died in the Indonesian airliner crash in Sumatra, an accident now in the news.

Incidentally, Japan recently dispatched emergency aid teams to Indonesia, as I understand it, mainly to assist local efforts in firefighting and the protection of endangered environmental resources. I would like everyone to bear in mind that this, too, is one of the ways Japan puts its ODA to work.

Okay, let me now move into my overview on international cooperation. In short, international cooperation comprises activities aimed at helping developing countries offset shortages of capital and technology and improve the quality of life for their citizens.

Efforts in international cooperation are pursued by a variety of entities on different levels. They range from government programs to ventures by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other citizen-led groups to private corporate investments noted for their effectiveness as a form of assistance.

ODA activities

Government-led cooperation must meet three conditions to fit definition as ODA. First, it must be provided by the central government or its aid agencies. Second, it must be designed specifically to help improve public welfare and promote economic development in the recipient country. And third, as a form of financial assistance, it must be extended on easy terms to avoid placing an undue strain on the recipient. That is to say, it must be provided chiefly as grant assistance or in the form of low-interest loans.

Some of the participants at this symposium today have perhaps adopted a critical view of ODA and thus may be in a combative mood. [laughter] I am not really sure, but we could be in for some rather heated debate. We shall see, but whatever your intentions, let me ask that you be consistently mindful of the fact that international assistance takes many forms, and that many sincere individuals have committed themselves to action in the field.

Next, I would like to discuss some of the specifics or features of aid, starting with bilateral forms. Let me focus in on one type in particular: grant assistance. This amounts basically to money that the recipient is under no obligation to pay back. Note that subsidies to NGOs are also one type of grant assistance. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs administers the government budget for such outlays.

In addition to grants, we have yen loans, which are low-interest, long-term forms of financing designed to provide recipient countries with the funding they need for their development programs. The OECF handles the provision of yen loans.

Technical cooperation is yet another form of aid. Administered primarily by JICA, technical cooperation projects are one way Japan transfers technologies and expertise essential to the training of the human resources responsible for nation-building efforts in developing countries. As you probably know, assistance in this category includes the dispatch of JOCVs and experts, and acceptance of trainees.

Aside from these bilateral forms of aid, we also have the multilateral variety, funded by government contributions to the World Bank and other multilateral institutions. One cited shortcoming of multilateral aid, though, is that it tends to prevent recipients from determining where the money comes from, that is, which donor countries actually provided the funds.

In 1995, Japan furnished just over 20 percent of its ODA in the form of technical cooperation. Grants accounted for an additional 20 percent, yen loans, over 30 percent, and contributions to multilateral institutions, about 30 percent.

NGO activities

Other public-sector and private-sector sources also supply funding as economic assistance or as development funding aimed at offsetting funding shortfalls in developing countries. "NGO" is one of those terms I imagine most people are familiar with nowadays. In general, it refers to those private, nonprofit, citizen-led organizations that are engaged in addressing the problems of the developing world. Whereas many NGOs are active primarily at the domestic level, for instance, in raising aid funds and collecting basic supplies, promoting international exchange, and running training programs, some are active on a much larger scale and have overseas offices to which they regularly assign staff and volunteers. Indeed, as providers of nongovernmental aid, NGOs play a role that we simply cannot afford to overlook. One of the leading NGOs now working to improve the

quality of life for people living in Thai slum districts is the Duang Prateep Foundation, an organization headed by Ms. Prateep, from whom we shall hear in a few moments. As it happens, NGOs in Japan have been assisting this foundation's activities. Though most NGOs tend to be limited in terms of the scale of aid they provide, as I see it, they are better positioned to provide aid that is well-tailored to local conditions. Incidentally, various municipal governments also happen to be actively engaged in the arena of international assistance.

Face-to-face activities: the driving force behind international cooperation

I believe recipient countries are especially grateful for any assistance provided at the grassroots or private levels. Though it never drew much publicity, following the Kobe Earthquake about two and a half years ago, Japan received substantial assistance from its own ODA recipients. My impression is that private contact on a day-to-day basis was one of the key factors that made this possible.

On that understanding, it would seem that cultivating a broader public awareness of the need for participatory forms of assistance will be an important first step toward promoting the goals of international cooperation in the years ahead. I believe that is one of the primary reasons we are gathered for this symposium today.

In the sessions that follow, I anticipate that our panelists will engage themselves in a discussion of topics relevant to the theme of international cooperation while bearing in mind various questions or points about current trends in Japan or its national character. The focus today will be on being of assistance to others, helping and being helped, coexistence, and openness to difference or diversity.

Duang Prateep Foundation: an organization striving to improve life for Thai slum dwellers

I am about to turn the floor over to our first speaker today, Ms. Prateep from Thailand, who is now General Secretary of the Duang Prateep Foundation. First though, let me provide a brief background profile. Ms. Prateep is currently engaged in activities aimed at improving life for citizens in Thailand's slums. She was born and raised in Bangkok's Klong Toey slum district, and at the age of 16 founded the One Baht School. One baht is today worth about ¥0.3. In 1978, Ms. Prateep received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. She is the mother of two children, and is married to a Japanese national, Mr. Tatsuya Hata. Ms. Prateep, the floor is now yours.

Slum children often left to fend for themselves

PRATEEP: Firstly, I would like to thank JICA and OECF for inviting me today. I am honored that such prestigious organizations ask a slum woman like myself to speak to you all. I hope that I prove worthy for this honor.

We, the Thai people find ourselves in a deep economic crisis and are very much dependent on helping hands from overseas. The helping hands of the Japanese government and Japanese banks are extremely important to us, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rescue plan, backed it is by several Asian countries, is a good example of Asian solidarity. The Duang Prateep Foundation has also benefited through helping hands from Japanese for many years.

A few weeks ago, for example, we welcomed a group of Japanese to join us for an anti-drugs mini-marathon run at Chumphon in the south of Thailand. Their support for the occasion was superb, despite the cyclone that hit.

I was born, grew up, and still live in a slum called Klong Toey, Bangkok's largest slum of about 100,000 people. There are now about 2,000 slums in

Thailand (mainly in Bangkok) with a total population of about 2 million. People relocate to squatter settlements near the new factories where they can find work, but which lack basic amenities. Slum life is hard for children, where both parents are often out at work all day, and grow up lacking proper care and attention, and a moral framework.

Founded the One Baht School, then the Duang Prateep Foundation

I was lucky that my mother could send me to school for four years. But at the age of 12, I began working at a firecracker factory and at the port. When I saw other children going to school I was sad and envious and wondered why our society is not fair. My mother taught me that if you do good, you will receive good, and if you give more and more to other people, you will receive more. But even when I tried, I could never get rid of poverty. In order to release my anxiety and worry, I started reading Buddhist books at 13, which gave me encouragement and strength to live and share with other people. At that time I attended night school and decided to become a teacher. At 16 I started a school called the One Baht School. I wanted to share my knowledge with unfortunate children who would otherwise have no chance of education. Although I was materially poor, we could share our knowledge and enrich our hearts. At first, however, the school was regarded as illegal by the authorities, and there were many years of conflict, but eventually it was accepted by the government and I was appointed as the head teacher.

I soon began to be known as a spokesman for the urban poor. In 1978 I received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, with the prize of U.S. \$20,000. It was equivalent to 5 million yen at that time, so I had some conflict within myself, wondering whether I should spend all the money on myself, buy a nice house. I remembered that because I am a Buddhist, I should not be selfish, and finally decided to set up the Duang Prateep Foundation. Duang Prateep means flame of light. Now we are running 22 projects for both urban and rural poor and working in five areas of operation: education, health, social services, human development, and emergency assistance.

Universal education: the key to improved living standards

Education has always been at the heart of the Foundation's activities. It is the key to raising the living standards of poor communities. Our educational sponsorship now gives financial support for 2,500 children starting at all levels of education. Many of these children are receiving support from Japanese sponsors, whose help goes beyond merely giving money toward a child's education. Some children are sponsored to further their education in Japan. We have 15 kindergartens in Bangkok's slum communities and a special school for hearing-impaired children. In addition, our AIDS program, our Young Women's Group or Slum Children's Art Club, even our credit union and our senior citizens' club continue the education process. At Chumphon Province in the south of Thailand, we have a special school called the New Life Project for youth from slums who have had problems with slum life, such as substance abuse or petty crime. At Chumphon they are kept fully occupied with a mixture of conventional schooling and vocational training with an emphasis on agriculture. The project has been successful at rehabilitating many problem kids, and most of them stay straight when they leave the project. We are also developing a special New Life Project for girls who have become addicts or have been sexually abused in Kanchanaburi, west of Bangkok. The New Life Project has benefited greatly from Japanese support. Our Japanese visitors help with the farmwork, they play sports with the children, they join in cultural activities. This is true helping hands — not just giving money, but also giving their inspiration and perspiration.

Path to a healthy society: efforts in community development by slum dwellers themselves

Fire is a common hazard of slum life. The slum community cannot rely on outside assistance in such circumstances, so we train firefighters, and each community has its own fire service. Presently Japanese business groups have donated fire engines, and we will soon receive two more.

Another serious problem for slum communities are housing rights and the threat of eviction. The Duang Prateep Foundation has therefore been coordinating work with community groups, other NGOs, the local authorities and local police on the preparation of a master plan for the Klong Toey slum. We are now pushing the government for acceptance of this plan, which will guarantee the suitable development of our slum.

Fire and evictions have a common strand. They destroy the social fabric of the community and leave people without homes and often without work. People become hungry and turn to drugs or crime to meet their needs. Recently we have seen a serious increase in drug consumption, especially amphetamines, and the consumers are starting younger. It is likely that as the recession deepens the situation will worsen still more. Myself and the Duang Prateep Foundation became embroiled in a controversy last year when we spoke out against police involvement in the drug trade. It was a scary time with death threats, and a great deal of stress. What made the situation easier for me was knowledge that I was not alone. Many slum dwellers rallied around to show their support for my stand, and this gave me courage and determination to continue my campaign.

Sustainable development cannot be handed down from above. It must come from the people themselves. The Duang Prateep Foundation is working with many hundreds of slum dwellers who want to participate in development of their community.

Real partnerships spring from citizen participation

Even though our work also requires money, we should not see helping hands purely as a financial transaction. I have already mentioned the generosity of the Japanese in donating to our work, but the ties go deeper. Later this month a group of firefighters from Klong Toey have been invited to Japan for a training program. The exchange of ideas, friendship, the new concepts learned make for a real partnership of real helping hands. We presently have three full-time Japanese volunteers at the Duang Prateep Foundation. Every year we

receive over 2,000 Japanese visitors to the Duang Prateep Foundation. They give us money in return for being told about our work. I hope that the Japanese visitors do not just learn about our work but also encourage people to extend helping hands also in their own communities in Japan or in other parts of the world. I hope that we can broaden the horizons of our visitors and encourage them to be participants in working for a better world.

At the Duang Prateep Foundation we are working to preserve the good in society for another generation. A healthy and strong society depends on helping hands. To all of you who extend your helping hands, either to us in Klong Toey Slum or to others around the world, thank you very much.

Panelist profiles and messages

KURODA: Thank you, Ms. Prateep. Now let me provide brief profiles of the rest of our panelists.

Seated beside Ms. Prateep is Ms. Mayumi Okuda, a staffer from the Health Services Facility for the Aged "Sukoyaka-en." She is going to discuss her experiences as a JOCV today. Born and raised in Hiroshima, Ms. Okuda has a degree in occupational therapy from the Kobe University College of Medical Technology. Following a career as a hospital employee, in 1993 Ms. Okuda began working as a JOCV assigned to the Muhimbili Medical Center in Tanzania, a position she filled for about three and a half years. In March this year, she assumed a new post as an occupational therapist at the Sukoyaka-en in Okayama Prefecture.

Beside Ms. Okuda is Mr. Tsutomu Hotta, a practicing attorney and president of the Sawayaka Welfare Foundation. Following his graduation from the Faculty of Law of Kyoto University, Mr. Hotta in 1961 began his career as a public prosecutor. In 1976, he joined the special investigation division of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors' Office, and demonstrated his skills as the public prosecutor of charge of the Lockheed bribery case. Mr. Hotta was appointed public prosecutor of the Supreme Public Procurators' Office in 1989, and the Deputy Vice-Minister of Justice the following year. Next comes the most

striking part of Mr. Hotta's bio. In 1991, he retired to set up the Sawayaka Welfare Foundation (initially known as the Sawayaka Welfare Promotion Center), where he currently serves as president. He is also the author of several publications, including *Kokoro no Fukkatsu* (literally: *Revival of Heart*), a work put out by Japan Broadcast Publishing Co., Ltd.

The next guest panelist in our lineup today is Dr. Kamchai Laismit, from Thailand. I have been informed that he will not mind if I address him by his first name, so that is what I intend to do because I have some trouble pronouncing his surname. Dr. Kamchai came to Japan in 1975 as a foreign exchange student in the Faculty of Economics of Kyoto University. He has also pursued course study under the Faculty of Economics at University of Tokyo. In all, Dr. Kamchai has a record of study in Japan totaling 14 years, and is fluent in the Japanese language. In 1996, he began serving as an assistant professor on the faculty of economics at Chulalongkorn University, and has earned distinction both in Thailand and Japan as an astute economist well-versed in Japan and things Japanese. Dr. Kamchai has translated Yukichi Fukuzawa's *Gakumon no Susume* (literally: *An Encouragement of Learning*) as well as ... I am doing my best here just to get the title right [laughter] ... Chomin Nakae's *San Suijin Keirin Mondoh* (literally: *A Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government*), both from Japanese into Thai. Today you will have an opportunity to hear him articulate his views in fluid Japanese.

Our last panelist is Dr. Atsushi Kusano, a professor on the Faculty of Policy Management at Keio University. After graduating from Keio's law department, he went on to obtain a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Tokyo. Dr. Kusano has served as an assistant professor with the Tokyo Institute of Technology and as a visiting scholar of Princeton University's Center of International Studies. He took up his current post in 1992, and has also gained recognition as a caustic commentator on Sunday Project, TV Asahi's program aired every Sunday at 10 a.m. His latest book is *ODA no Tadashii Mikata* (literally: *The Appropriate Perspective on ODA*), slated for

publication by Chikuma Shinsho. As an observer of ODA in actual practice, Dr. Kusano will no doubt be able to provide us with many useful insights and suggestions.

Now you have some background on our panelists. In keeping with the symposium program, next I will have them deliver speeches they have prepared, and then we will take a short break. After that, we will then proceed into the symposium discussions.

So, let us begin. Ms. Okuda, I would like to call on you to deliver your speech first.

Being of value to others adds to meaning of one's own life

OKUDA: Hello. I recently spent three years and four months as a JOCV, working as an occupational therapist in Tanzania, an East African country renowned for the stunning scenery and abundance of wildlife in its national parks.

I doubt there are many people here today who have a very clear image of what an occupational therapist actually does. Basically, our job involves various training activities aimed at helping people with mental or physical impairments serve as productive, active members of society.

Occupational therapists have much in common with physical therapists. Physical therapists train patients in basic physical functions, and occupational therapists then help train patients in those functions or actions useful to a particular task or job. Consider, for instance, the case of a patient whose hand or arm has been paralyzed in an accident. Whereas a physical therapist will typically be responsible for the muscle training routines designed to help the patient recover his or her strength in the limb affected, the occupational therapist's job will be to retrain the patient in specific, daily activities such as eating or writing.

Actually, in deciding to become a JOCV, I was not motivated by any particularly lofty ideal, such as being of assistance to others. In fact, my decision was almost purely based on a desire to experience life abroad. Before joining the JOCVs, I worked in a hospital geriatrics ward where I was responsible for the rehabilitation of patients with symptoms of senile dementia or suffering from the aftereffects of

strokes. Having graduated from school and having spent three years caring for elderly patients, I became somewhat frustrated by the reality that the loss of physical ability was simply one of those phenomena of aging that rehabilitation training could not overcome. In the process, I came to feel conscience-stricken whenever I contemplated my future in this career.

Maybe partly because I wanted to rid myself of that stifling frame of mind, I began to yearn increasingly to get away and put myself into an entirely new and unfamiliar setting, a new world. Naturally, I thought about taking a trip abroad, but the idea of merely treading on foreign ground as a tourist did not appeal. Rather, what I wanted was to be able to live abroad for some time and immerse myself in the local customs and culture. I realize it may be fashionable to head overseas on an impulse like the Saruganseki twosome [a pair of young Japanese TV comedians], but I couldn't do that. I didn't have the courage to fly off totally unprepared. That was why I was attracted to the JOCV program as an ideal way of obtaining the training and preparation I felt I would need.

I immediately began gathering information on terms for JOCV recruitment, and scanned through the list of countries to which JOCVs were then being assigned. Since there were openings in Fiji that involved work I had been trained for, Fiji was my first choice. The names of several African countries were also on the list, but in those days Africa seemed to me such an unfamiliar and frightening continent that I didn't even think about going there. So, when I received notification that I had been accepted for admission into the JOCV program, I simply took it for granted that Fiji was where I would be posted. As you can imagine, I was quite startled to read that Tanzania was the country to which I had been assigned. I still remember, in my initially bewildered state, picturing myself slashing through jungle cover to reach my destination and take up my new post.

Though I had virtually no background in Africa at all, after three months of intensive preparatory training I was on my way, equipped with a basic understanding of current conditions and trends in Tanzania and just enough Swahili to carry on with

the affairs of life there day-to-day.

My job was to engage in occupational therapy at the biggest hospital in the country. However, because Tanzania only had physical therapists, I found myself engaged in the task of rehabilitating patients on the one hand while providing physical therapists with training in occupational therapy techniques on the other. At the outset, I held seminars and in other ways went all out to live up to my instructional role on the assumption that I should teach the physical therapists working with me everything I could within the space of two years. However, they proved not to be as enthusiastic as I had hoped, and at times, I recall becoming extremely irritated, asking myself why these people were so short on motivation.

Yet, as time went by, I became more aware of the situation in which my coworkers had been placed, and gradually came to feel that I understood why they were not quite as motivated in the workplace as their counterparts in, say, Japan. We live in an increasingly information-intensive world. People in developing countries also have access to a widening flood of information about life in the industrial world; as such, the desire for a convenient and comfortable life has become virtually universal. However, modern conveniences cost money, yet my coworkers still received extremely low wages that in no way reflected their skills or the nature of their jobs. In effect, they were being shown the attractions of a lifestyle that within their own set of circumstances would remain out of reach. Strangely enough, I then began to understand why anyone might not be very motivated under such conditions, and on that realization I began to pursue my work at a more relaxed pace and rarely had reason to be angry. Once I made that change, I became much closer to my coworkers and found myself better able to work together with them on various projects.

Visiting the homes of patients to provide instruction in training methods was one task I especially enjoyed. On one occasion, I recall visiting the mother of a child who had cerebral palsy and couldn't stand up, and showing her how to make wooden training aids. Largely as a result of her

enthusiasm, her child was eventually able to stand up quite well. Sharing that mother's joy over her child's progress was one of those events that made me happy that I had gone to Tanzania after all.

With only three years of clinical experience behind me, I was by no means highly skilled. In fact, trial-and-error was often my only recourse. Deep down, though, I felt that in Tanzania there were people who needed me and really appreciated whatever I could do to help them, no matter how trivial. To me, that realization was a strong source of encouragement.

Of course, life in Tanzania was not without its frustrations. Owing to the deficiencies in communications and transportation infrastructure, I often never heard again from people with whom I had just begun to establish friendly ties. One individual I knew simply vanished, and was later rumored to have died. Also, there were many things I put off doing and regrettably never found the time to pursue later. All told, for me the JOCV experience effectively summed up the value of opportunities that come only once in a lifetime.

Following my 40-month stint in Tanzania, I returned home to Japan and resumed my geriatrics-related career. I should point out that being involved in the rehabilitation of elderly patients no longer leaves me with the sense of isolation or estrangement it once did. The reason is that I have grown more aware of the difficulties elderly people face in maintaining the physical capabilities they still have, and because helping them take on that challenge and developing friendships with them in the process have become major sources of personal satisfaction and encouragement for me.

This change in attitude, I think, comes from having had the opportunity to work in a different cultural setting and being awakened to the problems burdening people who live under circumstances different from mine. I believe I also owe it to the Tanzanians who expressed gratitude for the services I rendered, and who taught me about the inner warmth that one gains in return for making others happy.

Working together with elderly citizens is another opportunity that also comes only once in a

lifetime. Personally, I want to treasure each day and avoid the frustrations I felt years earlier. Not only that, but some day, if I have the chance, I want to return to Tanzania and do a better job of helping others than before. Asante sana kwa Wananchi wote wa Tanzania! (Literally: My sincere thanks to the people of Tanzania!). Thank you. [applause]

KURODA: And thank you, Ms. Okuda. Mr. Hotta, I would like to ask you to deliver your speech next, please.

A desire to assist as a volunteer in creating a kinder, gentler society

HOTTA: I must say I was enchanted by the passion in Ms. Prateep's speech and the maturity expressed by Ms. Okuda in relating her own experiences. Currently, at the Sawayaka Welfare Foundation, we are engaged in a volunteer fellowship program. In effect, we are pursuing volunteer activities nationwide in an effort to help elderly and handicapped citizens help each other. First, let me explain how I got involved in the volunteer field.

From 1972 to 1975, I spent about three and a half years in Washington, D.C. on an assignment with the Japanese Embassy. It was that experience of life in America that spurred my interest in volunteer service. I was in my late thirties at the time.

While I looked forward to my U.S. assignment as a chance to learn new things, I was nonetheless a bit concerned about taking my two preschool age sons with me. The reason was that in those days, I still harbored some rather absurd views about American society. For instance, I assumed it was hunter-based and violent, and I seriously worried about the danger that my children might be bullied or abused. After all, they were neither white nor could they speak English. So, when we finally set out for America, I was already heavy-hearted about the prospect of my children being teased or intimidated.

However, on the very day that we arrived and settled into the home we had rented in Washington, we were greeted by a bunch of neighborhood children who had come to play. Naturally, they spoke only English and our kids,

only Japanese. I still don't understand how they managed to communicate but it was obvious that they had plenty of fun trying. From then on, our kids were regularly invited over to their friends' homes to play.

As for the adults in the neighborhood, one of the things that impressed me was their volunteer spirit. They took time out to be with the kids and coach them in such things as baseball or soccer. Our sons were both allowed to join the local soccer team, and the younger one was immediately assigned the forward position. I still have recollections of him screaming something in Japanese and kicking the ball down the field. Forward, of course, is a position coveted by many Japanese kids nowadays because that's the position played by the Japanese soccer star, Kazuyoshi Miura.

As might have been expected, the neighborhood adults demonstrated absolutely no discrimination toward us, either. Instead, they welcomed us with open arms, and that is something I am still deeply grateful for, even today. Deep inside, I was very happy to be in such a warmhearted community.

Eventually, though, my assignment ended, and we found ourselves back home in Japan after a three-and-a-half-year lapse. On our return, our younger son began attending kindergarten, and his big brother became enrolled as a third-grader in elementary school. However, neither could speak Japanese anymore. Of course, in America my wife and I had continued talking to them in Japanese, which they understood well enough. The problem was that they had immersed themselves so completely into American society that English had become their spoken tongue.

I had put my kids into a public kindergarten and public elementary school without any worries to speak of, but both were soon being harassed by their Japanese peers. I suppose the antagonists justified their behavior by assuming that my sons were different because their spoken Japanese wasn't then up to par, or that perhaps they were morons incapable of mastering the written language. To combat the bullying, my younger son took up karate and somehow managed to get by. [laughter] His older brother, though, eventually

refused to go to school anymore, and wouldn't even come out of his room. His misery was something I myself would have to share.

A child's world is typically a perfect mirror of adult society. That was why I could not place much of the blame on the children who intimidated my two sons. After all, the pecking order of Japanese society had been formally cast in stone by an emphasis on the university you graduated from, your academic background in general, whether you were a departmental or section manager in your company or merely a common clerk, or how much money you earned. Those higher up the ladder were arrogant toward anyone lower down, who in turn found someone they considered even lower in rank than themselves to take out their frustrations on, ad nauseam. That is the way Japanese society at large has become, and it is reflected clearly by the society in which children interact.

Japan's economy has developed and thrived. That in itself is wonderful, but somewhere along the way we apparently lost our sense of compassion for others. Unless there is a change for the better in this respect, it seems doubtful that Japan's now rapidly aging society will enjoy much contentment or well-being in the years ahead. As I see it, volunteer activities constitute one of the quickest ways of transforming Japan into a more compassionate, warmhearted society. Naturally, I had begun to contemplate doing something useful in that vein when the time came to end my career as a public prosecutor.

However, that was a notion I kept to myself for many years. The Lockheed bribery scandal made the news almost immediately after we returned home from America, and I devoted myself to that. As the years went by, I continued my job as a prosecutor, yet all the while keeping a wary eye on Japanese society. With time, I climbed steadily up the managerial ladder and eventually found myself with no direct involvement in conventional prosecution affairs. Finally I decided I had had enough, quit my job, and moved into the volunteer service. That was six years ago.

Twenty years back, around the time I returned home from America, few people in Japan were actively engaged in volunteer activities. Had a

public prosecutor become involved in volunteer service at that time, no doubt he would have drawn suspicion from many people as being either very weird or up to no good. [laughter] In the early days, the volunteer movement in Japan was quite impoverished. For some years now, though, volunteer services have been growing significantly in their scope and scale, a trend suggesting that Japanese society has become more compassionate.

From the end of World War II up to the mid-1960s, practically everyone in Japan worked hard to satisfy their desire for the material things in life they had long done without. Everyone believed that material affluence was the road to happiness. As a result, modern Japanese society took shape on the assumption that people who were materially wealthy, made lots of money, or commanded a position of prestige were all "winners."

However, around the mid-1970s, a time by which most households had already fulfilled their material needs, Japanese society gradually began to regain a fundamentally human distaste for the sight of people suffering hardship. The recent Kobe Earthquake in particular brought this trend into focus with dramatic effect. Had that catastrophe taken place 20 years earlier, chances are that corporate truck fleets would have made up most of the traffic rushing to the scene to lend a hand. Their relief activities, moreover, would probably have been limited to rescuing the employees of affiliates and business clients and hauling any salvageable merchandise back to Tokyo. In 1995, though, the recovery of the quake-torn Kobe area actually had the help of multitudes of private citizens.

I prefer to believe the human species is equipped with a gene that predisposes us to helping others of our kind. If not, it would seem hard to explain how we humans as a relatively weak species have done well. Maybe that gene began to express itself once we had put the competitive race for material well-being behind and were positioned to help others again. Even as I push ahead with my Foundation's volunteer fellowship campaign, I cannot help believing that some mechanism of this kind must be at work.

Currently, our activities are limited to Japan. I should point out, though, that we also run an

assistance program for foreigners living in Japan, and that we have ties to similar volunteer organizations abroad. I am convinced that the impetus for our activities springs from a genuine affection for people. Needless to say, we look forward to expanding such activities in the years ahead. Thank you.

KURODA: Thank you Mr. Hotta. Now I would like to call on Dr. Kamchai to deliver his speech.

ODA: a source of major contributions to the development of social service infrastructure in Thailand

KAMCHAI: I have been allotted only six minutes for my first speech. As a university professor, I am accustomed to having that much time merely for the introductory formalities. So, I hope you will not mind too much if we end up with no time left for Dr. Kusano, the speaker after me. [laughter]

To date, Japan has provided ODA to a total of 135 countries worldwide. I am from one of those recipient countries: Thailand. I plan to speak on behalf of the developing world today, and to that end, I intend to draw from Thailand's own experiences.

Japan's record in the field of official development assistance extends back 43 years. I happen to be 42. I'm not trying to strike any parallels here--that would be rude. My point is simply that Japan's record coincides with the record of my own life. [laughter] Indeed, Japanese ODA has reached its prime, and I imagine it will continue to build on its record of accomplishment in the years ahead.

Japan's record of extending yen loans to Thailand also dates back quite far. One example worth citing was the loan for a project to build an expressway to the southern city of Hajai. The loan agreement for that project was signed in 1974, and the project itself was completed in 1979. The terms and conditions for that particular loan were exceptionally favorable: 25 years for repayment, a seven-year grace period, and an interest rate of 2.75 percent.

Prior to the start of that project, farm produce destined for Hajai had to be hauled in by rail.

Conventional rail transport took several days, however, and as a result, much of the merchandise lost its freshness in transit and had to be sold at a discount once it reached the marketplace. As to be expected, when the new highway went into operation, it effectively opened up a major new channel for the distribution of farm produce. Among other benefits, though, it encouraged farmers who had gone to Bangkok in search of work to return home and live with their families, and had the effect of spurring new business opportunities, boosting private income levels, and creating more jobs.

Yen loans have also helped Thailand in other ways: farm credit is one example. Thailand has a system of farm banks whose purpose is to provide unsecured credit at low interest, mainly to farmers. These banks are in fact the only source of credit available to most farmers. To meet demand for funds, the farm banks have adopted the two-step loan approach, drawing on yen loans from the OECF as their chief financial resource.

At one time, farmers in Thailand raised only one crop of rice per year. However, access to credit on easy terms enabled them to buy pumps for water reservoirs and begin growing rice even during the country's dry season. This is a good example of the kind of aid people appreciate. Another aid project sought to electrify about 23 percent of the country's rural villages. Electrification has since powered sweeping improvements in the quality of life for many citizens.

Yen loans have also been enlisted to upgrade urban infrastructure. For instance, practically all expressway and subway construction projects in and around Bangkok have been carried to completion on the basis of yen loans.

Of course, Japan was once a recipient country itself. Its Tomei Expressway and Tokaido bullet-train line for example, were built with aid from the World Bank. In fact, Japan has also received aid from Thailand. During World War II, when it was preparing to attack the British Army stationed in Burma (Myanmar), Japan formed an alliance with Thailand as the country of passage. At that time, Japan received a baht loan from the Thai

government for purchases of food, it was rice, for its troops. The Thai government went ahead with that loan—a huge sum—despite the burden it posed for the country's own finances. By the late 1960s, Japan had all but finished paying back that loan. I doubt whether many people are aware that Japan was once a recipient of foreign aid itself.

As my examples hopefully illustrate, the desire to help others seems to be rooted in a universal human spirit of benevolence. Japan has registered a multitude of successes with aid. It thus seems all the more regrettable that it now has plans to cut its ODA budget by 10 percent as one of several steps in administrative reform.

KURODA: Thank you. Dr. Kusano, you are the last speaker remaining, so now I turn the floor over to you.

ODA: a precious pipeline for coexistence with the rest of the world

KUSANO: I'll try to stick to my six-minute allotment, too. [laughter] Dr. Kamchai just discussed the importance of yen loans and the spirit of mutual support. Let me stress that I fully concur with the points he made. It was news to me that Thailand extended a baht loan to Japan during the last war. That information Dr. Kamchai shared with us will certainly be of value to future discussions concerning ODA.

I would like to take this opportunity to get down to some specifics and relate some of my own personal views with respect to ODA. I believe a fairly sizable segment of our audience today is rather critical of Japan's ODA policies and programs. In any event, Japan has for some time been able to pride itself as the world's top ODA donor in dollar terms. Furthermore, I believe that much of the ODA it has provided can in general be rated a success, in that it has in fact contributed to the economic advancement of many developing countries as well as an improved quality of life for many people living in poverty.

As many people here already know, questions of project efficiency aside, Japan has put together a highly efficient framework for economic assistance that is run by a very small team of dedicated

professionals. I am convinced that Japan's aid personnel are doing their best to work together with their counterparts in recipient countries.

Japanese ODA can be broken into essentially three types: yen loans, grants, and technical cooperation. To reiterate a point made by Ms. Kuroda earlier on, yen loans are essentially enlisted to finance big infrastructure projects: say, for roads, harbor and port facilities, or airports. Provided on a smaller scale, grants are typically employed to finance the construction of schools and hospitals or the installation of CT scanners and other advanced diagnostic equipment in hospitals.

Finally, there is technical cooperation, which is usually furnished through local programs. Needless to say, technical cooperation is an extremely valuable form of ODA. I would venture to say that Japan will place even more weight on human cooperation and assistance in the years ahead. Ms. Prateep has already stressed the importance of education, and I couldn't agree more. To use a rather prosaic analogy, it is important not merely to give developing countries fish, but to show them how to catch fish themselves. This analogy alone seems to sum up the vital role that technical cooperation should play.

I would like to add another point. As Ms. Kuroda explained earlier, Japanese ODA has been guided by a set of two fundamental objectives: economic advancement and improved welfare. Many developing countries would conceivably be hard-pressed to assume self-reliance and pursue real gains in economic advancement after having received technical cooperation alone. In terms of the "fish" analogy I just mentioned, it will also be vital to help them build factories to process their fish catch and port facilities for the export of their processed fish products. Additionally, they will need to lay the road infrastructure to provide their new processing plants with access to ports. Technical cooperation will also include training in fish market management and operation. I have personally had a chance to see this kind of aid in action in Indonesia, and my impression is that Japan seems to be doing a good job.

Incidentally, yen loans tend to be earmarked for big, expensive projects. It might seem preferable

and more beneficial to the developing recipient if such aid were provided entirely on a grant basis, particularly if the money need not be paid back. This may sound a bit stern, but huge injections of grant-based assistance would almost certainly undermine the recipient's ability to assume a self-reliant role in its own development affairs. Countries obligated to pay back the money will be more strongly encouraged to commit themselves to the task of nation-building.

Yen loans, grants, and technical cooperation. These are the three cornerstones of Japanese ODA. And, in my view, Japan will need to maintain this aid mix for years to come.

There are five basic reasons Japan must continue providing ODA. Let me briefly explain them now. The first is the need for humanitarian assistance to people in the developing world, something that has been pointed out several times already. Of the 5.7 billion people now living on this planet, about one billion will still be badly off tomorrow. As one of the world's heaviest consumers of energy resources, it seems only natural that Japan should do something to help these people.

Second, as Dr. Kamchai indicated during his address, several big infrastructure projects in Japan were financed by World Bank loans, including a bullet-train line, the Kurobe No. 4 dam, the Tomei Expressway, and the Hanshin Expressway. Japan finished paying back those loans in 1990, which is rather recent. Now it's essentially Japan's turn to furnish aid to the developing world.

The third reason is because Japan is tightly integrated into an international political and economic order characterized by mutually interdependent ties. This is an area within my own professional domain. Let me be a bit more specific. Most of the human race lives in the developing world today. Unless developing countries become economically independent and register economic gains, real affluence and well-being will eventually be out of reach for most Japanese as well. Japan is an export-driven economy, and I doubt that this will change anytime soon. If Japan is to maintain its own economic structure, developing countries must also be compassionate in the sense that Mr.

Hotta discussed earlier, and post economic advances of their own. To that end, though, Japan must be ready to effectively assist them.

The fourth reason, and something that ties in with the third, is the fact that Japan is essentially a resource-poor country. Conversely, most developing countries now receiving Japanese ODA happen to be endowed with abundant reserves of manganese, nickel, bauxite, crude oil, and most of the other raw materials that Japan needs. More to the point, it is imperative that Japan maintain friendly ties, either diplomatically or through the extension of ODA, with the resource-rich countries of the world. I concede this point could meet with disapproval on grounds that the provision of ODA should not be driven by economic motives. However, in my view it makes sense for Japan to utilize ODA as a means of developing closer ties to developing countries and on that basis, improve its access to supplies of the natural resources it lacks.

The fifth reason ties in with Japan's contribution to the international community in general. Namely, that in contrast to the U.S., Japan has not yet been able to win broad-based public support for military-oriented participation in the resolution of regional conflicts. I believe this point further underscores the importance of ODA.

Before I conclude, let me make two final points. First, although I have tried to emphasize the importance of Japanese ODA and the fact that it has been quite effective, it would of course be a distortion of reality to claim that everything about Japanese ODA has gone well. Some projects have not been effective, and not all can be described as having been necessary or implemented in the right place at the right time. Let me make it clear here that I, too, am aware of certain cases where things did not work out well in part because the recipient country was not prepared to put the aid to effective use.

The other point I wish to add is that Japan now faces fiscal strains of its own, something that suggests Japanese taxpayers will be increasingly concerned about the way their tax are used for ODA purposes. Given that prospect, the government can be expected to come under growing pressure in the years ahead to step up its disclosure of information on ODA-related matters. As I see it,

the government will have to look beyond purely ODA-related publicity campaigns and strive to have taxpayer's needs and views better reflected in its aid project formulation and implementation processes.

KURODA: Thank you. That concludes the first round of speeches by our panelists.

Benefits derived from helping others

KURODA: We're now ready to begin the panel discussions. I anticipate that our panelists will have a variety of viewpoints to share on the notion of helping others and the meaning or spirit of international cooperation. No matter how rationally one may advocate a particular stance on mutual assistance, there is usually a certain emotional element involved. This seems to be one of the factors that makes ODA a relatively difficult issue for discussion or debate.

For example, the spirit of volunteer service seems to spring from a fundamental desire to be of assistance to others, either directly or indirectly. People who have that desire experience a certain sense of satisfaction in helping others. Of course, that should not be the same as pure self-satisfaction. I would like to kick off the discussions by asking how we stand to benefit by expressing a desire to help others through undertakings in ODA. Ms. Okuda, I wonder if you would share your thoughts on that question as a veteran JOCV.

The energy to believe in oneself and persevere

OKUDA: Well, this is something I touched on earlier during my speech. I had begun to doubt whether I had any useful role to play. Aside from the question of whether I actually succeeded in helping anyone or not, my 40-month JOCV assignment in Tanzania was a source of energy that encouraged me to persevere largely on the realization that if I didn't do my job, who would?

Prior to participating in the JOCV program, I had virtually no conscious awareness of the reasons that had steered me toward a job in the

welfare field. It was as if I had been groping blindly for a sense of purpose. Now though, I understand the value of my job.

KURODA: How should we look at volunteer service in terms of the desire to help others? Mr. Hotta, any thoughts on that?

Improved self-esteem

HOTTA: Isn't it after all because humans want to give their life more meaning? Look at troubled or rebellious teenagers. For many of them, antisocial behavior is itself a form of self-expression that adds meaning or value to their own existence. Because they are black sheep, they are constantly being reprimanded at home or at school for their manners or for neglecting their studies. In chastising them, their parents are of course trying to encourage them to do better. However, some kids are not able to take that kind of treatment at face value, and instead begin to wonder whether their own lives really mean anything.

Many weaker kids are typically driven to suicide under this kind of pressure. For most, though, the thought of dying is not very attractive, either. Therefore, if they can't win praise in traditional ways, they will be encouraged to give their lives some meaning through deviant behavior. That is often the justification for being antisocial or delinquent.

Consider the boy who orders his weaker peers to do something disagreeable, such as sneaking out ¥50,000 from home and bringing it to him. While he of course wants the money, he is also interested in boosting his sense of personal worth as an individual with the power to boss others around. Much the same motivation encourages gangs of kids to roar around town late at night on loud motorcycles. In effect, they are saying: "Hey everybody, how do you like this racket? We're the reason you can't sleep. That's the kind of power we have!" [laughter]

This explains why it is so useless for instructors at reform school to try to scold such kids for being a nuisance. They were being a nuisance because that was something that boosted their own self-esteem. For many delinquents, life is probably not

worth living unless they are able to relish the personal sense of power derived from being bad.

Actually, one of the reform programs we have in Japan for troubled youth involves taking them on visits to nursing homes for the elderly. This isn't a program of volunteer service; the kids are taken there whether they like it or not, and are compelled to assist the residents with their meals.

Most of the girls have grown their nails long and painted them red. The boys have typically shaved their foreheads punk-style. The elderly residents are often delighted to meet kids with their hair dyed blond or silver because they are such a rare sight. [laughter] Long nails, of course, are not suited to the task of helping residents, though, so the kids are told to cut them short. Most naturally refuse at first because having long nails has become one way of identifying themselves. "See these long nails? Scary, aren't they?" In effect, this is yet another expression of power.

Though the kids are forcefully taken to these nursing homes and have to assist the elderly residents with their meals, the residents do thank them for that service. Actually, the facility director usually asks the residents beforehand to thank the volunteers. [laughter] In any case, the kids are elated to be thanked for their work. To that point in their lives, many have almost never had anyone say to them, "Thank you!" Having been constantly admonished and treated as bad sheep, this is often the first time they have been appreciated for a positive deed. The kids seem to be genuinely moved by that, and realizing that they too have the ability to make others happy, become even more serious about helping the residents. At that point, many of the once-apathetic girls will clip their nails and get involved in the routine.

Basically, it seems to me that most people have a fundamental desire to feel needed, that they are being helpful, that their life has positive value in the eyes of others. As I see it, then, in assisting others, many volunteers are often seeking to affirm the value of their own lives.

The donor's perspective

KURODA: I believe that Ms. Prateep is someone with a practical understanding of both sides of the equation, as a beneficiary of volunteer assistance and as an individual who has made the promotion of volunteer services part of her own life career. In the ODA arena, we are aware that we have something to gain by being of assistance to others as has already been mentioned, but we seem to have trouble when it comes to the question of showing respect for the dignity of the recipient. Ms. Prateep, what are your own views on this particular issue?

Adapt to the ways of local society and show respect for the recipient's cultural traditions

PRATEEP: If you have no feeling from your heart to help it is meaningless. My organization receives many volunteers, some of whom are well adjusted, but some who hesitate. For example, some people in Thailand eat by hand, so when our volunteers hesitate to eat with their hands, we feel looked on like we are very primitive. It is very important to make our volunteers adjusted to our society and respect the culture. And how our volunteers can understand, enjoy, and see things in a positive way, is also very important.

Community-based organizations like my organization, believe that sustainable development—in cooperation together—should be by working hand-in hand, to make the community strong enough to stand by themselves in the future.

KURODA: It seems we can draw three fundamental conclusions from Ms. Prateep's remarks: that donors must first of all be prepared to act from the heart, secondly, that they must respect the culture and traditions of the recipient country, and third, that they strive for mutually beneficial ties of assistance.

Incidentally, we call technology transfers a form of cooperation, too, but in most cases those transfers tend to be from donor countries that are technologically advanced to recipient countries that are still technologically underdeveloped. This

reality gives rise to a vertical relationship that complicates the difficulties involved in showing respect for the dignity of the recipient. Dr. Kusano, could you share with us your views on some of the psychological or emotional factors behind this issue?

Put yourself in the recipients' shoes and listen carefully to what they have to say

KUSANO: Well, since I am not directly involved in the aid field, my views may be a bit out of focus here. I'd like to emphasize, however, that the difficulties in this particular dimension span all forms of ODA, including technical cooperation. Japan's readiness to provide certain types of assistance does not always mesh well with the desires of developing countries.

Take technical cooperation, for instance. In years past, Japan typically peddled the latest technologies available. To meet the real needs of the developing world, though, it is today more interested in furnishing technologies and equipment that are well-adapted to the current economic stage and societal setting or customs of each recipient. As to be expected, most developing countries are still somewhat technologically backward compared to standards in Japan or the West. In general, though, many countries in a position to receive such assistance often express a desire for the latest technologies and equipment. In my view, this is one of the factors that compounds the difficulties involved in furnishing effective forms of ODA.

KURODA: Programs of training in facility maintenance are one of the activities in which JICA has been engaged. Furthermore, the impression I gained firsthand from my tour of various JICA projects was that the aid had been finely tailored to local circumstances and that attention had been devoted to every possible detail.

KUSANO: I believe Ms. Okuda may be better prepared to follow up on this particular thread.

OKUDA: The hospital I was assigned to had received grants for an array of expensive, leading-

edge medical tools and equipment. In general, though, the kinds of technologies that actually find wide use in Tanzania's health-care setting are not so advanced.

Another point to bear in mind is that because many countries across Africa were once colonies of the British empire, much of the equipment still in use is British-made. In some cases, equipment supplied by Japan stands idle because no one is familiar with how to use it.

Let me add, though, that the orthopedic surgeon at the Tanzanian hospital where I worked submitted a request for training in the utilization of equipment donated by Japan. The JICA Tanzania Office in response put together a follow-up training program for that purpose. That surgeon is now receiving training here in Japan, and in fact, he is attending this symposium today. This is one example supporting my impression that Japanese aid tends to be relatively well-tuned to actual needs.

PRATEEP: When working with poor communities and teachers in rural areas, we don't actually need that high technology, but we are being forced and pushed to accept this new technology. We want technology that is suitable for us, that we don't have to be tied to. We have to go in debt to pay a lot of money to buy the new technology, and we don't know how to produce with it—we become consumers, just using and using.

Another example is when I used to be the head teacher at the government school for four and a half years where I had been given four Xerox machines, which cost a lot of money. That means so much rice and rubber... so many natural resources that we had to spend. Later, working with volunteers from the NGO groups, the Ohanashi Caravan and the Japan Sotoshu Relief Committee I came to learn about the "toshaban [mimeograph machine]." A "toshaban" is very cheap and is the appropriate technology for poor countries and poor communities like ours. But we had never known about it before...please Mr. Fujita...I would like in the future, if any high technology would be harmful to Thailand...

KUSANO: Pardon me for interrupting here, but one of the difficulties with ODA is that not everyone

shares the same point of view as Ms. Prateep. Some recipient countries do want high-tech equipment, and in many cases they actually need it. That's why I think both are necessary. The crucial thing is how effectively the donor is able to identify the need.

KURODA: Dr. Kamchai, how do you feel about that?

KAMCHAI: I essentially agree with the other speakers. Thai engineers in a given district are usually able to improvise with equipment that's suited to the local level of technology. In the event the recipient wants equipment based on the latest technologies, it will have no choice but to rely on its industrialized donors for everything, including routine maintenance. On the other hand, acquiring a clear grasp of the technical-cooperation or technology-transfer needs of each developing country would be an extremely formidable challenge in its own right.

One grievance repeatedly voiced by developing countries is that although the equipment they receive under aid programs is often based on state-of-the-art technology, the technology is already outdated by the time the hardware is actually delivered into their hands. The pace of technological innovation has been startling in the computer field, for instance. This is the reason I think the most effective approach is for donors and recipients to sit down and work together seriously to determine what the latter actually needs.

HOTTA: You are absolutely right. The most important thing is for the donor to have a good understanding of the recipient's point of view. Listening to what the recipient say is naturally one of the best ways of gaining that understanding. The aid sought by people who were hit by the Kobe Earthquake, for instance, changed in the course of a few days. At first, they were in need of rice balls and water, so we went all out to get them rice balls and water. Within three to five days, they started to say "rice balls again?" [laughter] After that, though, many said they wanted to eat hot noodles.

KURODA: Yes, as you know, the quake hit right in the middle of the winter season.

HOTTA: So, then we began boiling lots of noodles, yet on occasion people also asked for curried bread

rolls. [laughter] My point, basically, is that the needs of individuals will change. That's why it is often not so easy to satisfy them, and also why it is absolutely imperative to sit down and let them tell you what they need.

KURODA: Ms. Prateep reports that her foundation has received mimeograph machines from the NGO to which her husband belongs, and the foundation has also received copy machines on a broader, large-scale basis.

KUSANO: You're basically right, and that's the direction in which things are actually headed. In reality, though, we have not been responding to requests for follow-up assistance for every conceivable project now under way. To my knowledge, Japan has at least 4,000 ODA projects ongoing. Furthermore, as I pointed out earlier in my speech, most of those projects have been implemented by small, select teams of highly trained personnel, and faults and oversights are inevitable. Since this is the situation now, in my view it's time for Japan to pause and subject its aid policies and programs to a sweeping review.

Development and issues concerning the environment

The drive to address environmental issues should be a concerted international effort

KURODA: Let's turn to the environment. No matter where we decide to live, the fact remains that we all coexist on the same planet. Therefore, as global or planetary citizens, it seems vital that we work together to address environmental issues.

KAMCHAI: Most environmental problems involve phenomena that span beyond any single country. One environmental problem now in the news is the smoke pollution that has been caused by extensive forest fires in parts of Indonesia. That pollution has heavily impacted neighboring Malaysia and southern Thailand. As Ms. Kuroda indicated earlier, haze from the fires in Indonesia has been blamed for the recent Garuda airliner crash. As these developments suggest, our environmental

problems should be addressed as global issues in the years ahead.

During his recent visit to China, Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto pledged that Japan was prepared to assist in the task of finding solutions to environmental ills by supplying loans on extremely attractive terms, including low interest, loans allowing 40 years for repayment with a 10-year grace period. Many developing countries were highly impressed by that show of commitment.

KURODA: Many developing countries also apparently hold the view that the industrial world has polluted the planet as it pleased for decades to make life more convenient for itself, yet that it is now telling developing countries to curtail their own development. One question therefore seems to be how we should reconcile environmental issues with the objectives of development.

Urgent measures in environmental assistance backed by the wisdom and experience of the industrial world

PRATEEP: Through ODA you already help in emergencies, and maybe with loans and technicians, and I think another thing we really want is the experience—what you had in the past, being an industrialized country. People in the factories, they are dying because they don't know much about how dangerous the chemicals are, and many young children or even housewives still take water from polluted river for cooking. We are really looking for those kinds of experiences and those kinds of technicians. In a country community five years ago we had a big chemical explosion—all kinds of chemicals mixed together. Those who died suddenly were lucky, but the ones who do not, live very difficultly lives and suffer a lot. Safety standards in Thailand still do not exist. Which ones are dangerous, which ones are not dangerous, we do not have our own list. This kind of thing we really want.

KUSANO: I think Ms. Prateep just made an extremely valuable point. I realize we have several JICA officials in attendance today, so if any of my following remarks are mistaken, I urge that you correct me.

Japanese environmental ODA has been growing rapidly, in absolute value terms as well as share. That is not to say there are no problems with the nature of this aid. Japanese aid in the environmental field tends to be focused in projects for water and sewage infrastructure. Most of the people supplying technical cooperation as experts in this field are trained engineers permanently employed by government aid institutions or other segments of the public-sector bureaucracy. However, as Ms. Prateep just noted, many of the experts in environmental pollution tend to be employed by municipal or local governments. Though various municipalities have begun to involve themselves in the provision of antipollution-related technical experts, this is not enough. Private companies have also begun to send experts abroad on aid-related assignments, but frameworks for private-sector participation in this field have yet to be put into place. The conclusion that can be drawn is that we still suffer a shortage of experts trained in the provision of technical cooperation. Efforts in this area will constitute a key hurdle for Japan in the years ahead.

As it happens, Japan recently assisted in setting up three centers for environmental monitoring in three Asian countries, Indonesia, China, and Thailand. Those centers were built with Japanese grants and technical cooperation. To me, this indicates that Japan has been instrumental in helping Asia at large address its environmental problems.

KURODA: Recent economic trends suggest certain regions of the world community have lost much of the growth momentum they once had. Japan, for instance, has entered a stage of ultra-slow growth. Given these trends in Japan and worldwide, I would like your views on the following question: Should individuals or national governments engage themselves in volunteer services even if they may not have the economic wherewithal?

Accepting a lower standard of living in industrial societies: essential to the task of alleviating income gaps and the pace of environmental devastation worldwide

HOTTA: I think the question Ms. Kuroda just raised is inseparable from the problems of development and human advancement. In his address earlier today, JICA president Mr. Fujita used the expression, "our small planet." As I see it, those words alone sum up in a nutshell why we must aid the developing world.

Whereas the level of material consumption has reached the saturation point in some countries on this small planet, in others, people are still starving to death because there is not enough food to go around. The twinge of conscience that we naturally feel in asking ourselves whether this state of affairs is acceptable is a fundamental impetus behind our desire to lend a helping hand. So, the question of whether Japan has the surplus resources or not is not so important because our readiness to extend aid springs more from a desire to see that fellow human beings have enough to eat.

Hence, to close the North-South gaps as quickly as possible, it seems absolutely essential that the industrial countries assist their developing counterparts in reaching a stage of economic self-reliance. Furthermore, we want to ensure that people are able to enjoy the same quality of life wherever they happen to live. This is a sentiment universally shared by people everywhere on our small planet, and as long as we bear it in mind, the question of whether we have the surplus resources will not matter. At least, that is how I see things.

But even if the aid we provide is shaped by this point of view, eventually the objectives of advancing human well-being and pure economic development can be expected to clash. Endless development would ultimately set the stage for environmental catastrophes, the destruction of our forests, and the irreversible pollution of our rivers and streams. It is now quite clear that unless we place limits of some kind on the development process, our planet and humankind will be confronted by an environmental crisis. Herein lies a

difficult question: Can the planet withstand the environmental strains posed by its human population if every country on Earth pursues the same level of development and the same consumer lifestyles as those in the industrial world? This is a question we must all explore together.

However, Japan has itself overlogged forests in the developing world and polluted the environment on an extensive scale. Indeed, it has really done pretty much as it pleased. As a consequence, though, Japan is not in a position to tell the countries of the developing world that they should refrain from following a similar economic path.

That notwithstanding, we still have to bring the trends in environmental devastation and pollution under control. As one step to this end, instead of preoccupying itself with the continued pursuit of economic growth and purely convenience-driven lifestyles, I think Japanese society could satisfy itself with a lower standard of living. In taking that step, Japan would conceivably open the door to an alternative path that many developing countries would recognize as the path they, too, should follow. This is one path toward global economic equilibrium that I believe we must take under serious consideration.

Development: a higher priority than the environment in most developing countries

KURODA: Dr. Kamchai, as a Thai educator, could you describe the views of your Thai students on issues like development, economic growth, and the environment?

KAMCHAI: Unfortunately, most students are still not too enlightened about international issues in general, let alone the environment. Their grades are about the only thing they are worried about. [laughter]

KUSANO: That sums up the situation for most Japanese students, too. [laughter]

KAMCHAI: Only a small fraction of students seems to be at all interested in social issues. Though many may hold no particular interest in social or environmental issues during their student years, in

time I believe they will awaken to the fact that they were able to continue with their studies because they themselves had a favorable environment and outside support. Once they begin to appreciate that, many will probably cultivate a desire to help others and become involved in the field of international cooperation.

As Mr. Hotta described earlier, this willingness to be of assistance to others typically springs from a desire to add to the meaning or value of one's own life. To put it another way, then, by helping others, volunteers are essentially acting for their own good as well.

At present, though, Japan has plans to cut its budget for ODA and other forms of overseas assistance. To many foreigners, such actions seem tantamount to a Japanese loss of confidence. In other words, Japan is prepared to cut its aid budget because it feels its aid is not helping the world.

KUSANO: That certainly is a fresh perspective. I would like to have Dr. Kamchai clarify something, though. What do Thai students put more emphasis on, development or the environment? Is economic prosperity the top priority after all?

KAMCHAI: Well, at this point, economic development is top on their list of priorities.

KUSANO: The drive for economic takeoff has reached an irreversible stage throughout the developing world. That is why so many developing countries consider economic development more important than the task of addressing their environmental issues. However, as Mr. Hotta pointed out earlier, balancing the environment with development has become a pressing challenge. For that purpose, Japan could set an example for the rest of the world to follow by cutting back on its level of material consumption and tolerating a lower standard of living. Personally, I think this is a good idea, but judging from the attitude of my own students, I have serious doubts as to whether it would work. [laughter] I don't think the students at my university are unique in this respect, either. I wonder if Mr. Hotta could provide a little more detail on how Japan could become the kind of role model he has described.

Material wealth: not always the path to happiness

HOTTA: Many schools around Japan have begun devoting more and more of their curriculum to environmental issues. At some primary schools, for instance, the students engage in debates concerning environmental topics. Incidentally, one mother recently related to me that her primary-school child lectured her on environmental awareness because she had carelessly used a pair of throwaway chopsticks. As this suggests, our children are attuned to the importance of the environment now. That's why I believe they will grow up more environmentally conscious and ready to lead the way by accepting a materially lower standard of living.

KUSANO: I wonder about that. Don't you think they are more likely to change their minds somewhere along the road to adulthood? [laughter]

KURODA: As to lowering our standard of living, are you forecasting on the basis of a time scale of, say, 100 years, or what?

HOTTA: Oh, I don't believe it will take 100 years at all. As you may recall, the term "seihin" (literally, "honest poverty") became a popular buzzword in Japan over 10 years ago. The idea behind that term drew popularity not so much because it had anything to do with any environmental consciousness, per se, but because people had begun to question the conventional belief that material affluence was the path to inner happiness. This idea may not relate well with today's younger generation, but many older Japanese have begun to sense that happiness does not always come in hand in hand with being materially well off.

As it happens, some of the wealthier retirees in Japan typically pay from ¥300 to ¥500 million for admission into luxury private nursing homes, and on top of that they then pay from ¥300,000 to ¥500,000 in monthly fees. If you think such people are happy, in reality most are miserable. Few exchange conversation with fellow residents they may happen to meet in the hallway. No one is interested in gathering for fun or songs in the big karaoke room with its 50 sofas. People like that

don't want to associate with anyone in the first place. Can they really be happy with this sort of life?

In my view, more and more people are beginning to ask themselves whether money alone can buy them happiness. Everything might appear hopeless if we were to try to predict the future on the basis of how the student-age population thinks or acts today. Nonetheless, I am convinced they, too, would be readily able to understand the issues if properly informed.

KURODA: Ms. Okuda, how do Mr. Hotta's remarks strike you?

OKUDA: Well, these days more and more young Japanese seem to prefer journeying to Africa and other places that pose certain inconveniences. Relating to what Mr. Hotta just said, my impression is that young people tend to develop an intuitive grasp of the problems at hand more quickly.

During my assignment in Tanzania, I initially felt frustrated by the lack of certain amenities. After a while, though, I began to adjust to the situation and even learned to appreciate the sense of freedom that derives from being able to do without. This feeling eventually gave me the impression that until then my life had been shaped and controlled by an addiction to material things. Once back home in Japan, I felt totally annoyed by the prospect of having to choose and use the material amenities of our modern culture to get anything done. My impression is that once people have experienced a life uncluttered by superficial gadgets and consumer conveniences, they develop a natural affinity for that sort of life rather than feeling that they must force themselves to tolerate a lower standard of living, whatever that means. [applause]

KUSANO: It would be great if everyone was as young as some of our JOCVs are. [laughter]

KURODA: In Japanese, we have the classical proverb, "*nasake wa hito no tame narazu*," which originally had the connotation that one good turn deserves another. However, it seems many people nowadays mistakenly assume [laughter] the expression means that having pity on others does no one any good, hence, that they shouldn't show pity. In relation to our discussion here, I would like

everyone to think of the notion of lowering one's current standard of living as a good turn that will translate into a better life for all in the longer run.

The outlook for international cooperation

KURODA: It is time to accept questions and comments from the floor. Due to some carelessness on my part, the proceedings seem to be running behind schedule. I must apologize for that.

At this point, I would like to give our panelists a last chance to make any points they feel absolutely essential, or appeal directly to the presidents, or say anything they like. After they have delivered their final remarks, we will then take questions and comments from the floor. Each panelist will have only a little over a minute to speak. Ms. Prateep, let's start with you.

ODA: a taxpayer-develop source of aid that must be used wisely

PRATEEP: I would like to thank the Japanese people, who pay a lot of tax for other people. We really appreciate it. As a recipient, we really appreciate it, and we will try to do our best using your tax. Thank you very much.

OKUDA: My remarks basically echo what Ms. Prateep just said. Tax revenues are the financial base of support for the JOCV program, so, I have Japan's taxpayers to thank for enabling me to participate in that program and learn what I did. I intend to assume a responsible role as a taxpayer myself in the years ahead, and in that way support the activities of future JOCVs. I want to thank everyone for their help. [laughter]

HOTTA: I have only one thing to say. Everyone, please give Ms. Prateep your full support.

Show more consideration for the value systems of developing countries

KAMCHAI: One minute isn't even enough to eat a cup of instant noodles. [laughter] First, a request: If you have the opportunity, please look at the

October issue of the OECF Newsletter and read the paper I recently wrote on the subject of humanitarian aid.

What I would like to say is this. ODA-based activities entail a substantial amount of contact and exchange between different countries and cultures. For some of the people involved, the result is often culture shock. Therefore, as the saying goes, when in Rome do as the Romans do. In other words, it would be wonderful if aid dialogues could proceed from an understanding of what the recipient country needs or is asking for, as well as an awareness of that country's system of values.

Aid: a stepping stone to self-reliance

KUSANO: Japanese ODA does not constitute an especially huge burden if measured in per capita terms. For example, consider the amount spent at home for certain public-works projects. Every year, Japan spends around ¥14 trillion on domestic road-construction projects alone, including repayments on loans for that purpose. By comparison, it spends around ¥1.6 trillion on ODA, including outlays extended in the form of yen loans. So, that's ¥14 trillion on the one hand, as opposed to ¥1.6 trillion on the other. Think about it. Is ODA really that much of a burden on Japan's taxpayers?

Another point I'd like to make is this. In furnishing aid to developing countries, Japan is in a very real sense giving them the opportunity to become donor countries themselves. Singapore, for instance, is on the verge of becoming a net donor country, right? Eventually, the same may be said for Thailand, the Philippines, or Indonesia. The implication is that some day in the not-too-distant future, Japan will no longer face the necessity of utilizing its tax revenues to finance aid programs for developing countries. This is a good example of the meaning behind the expression, "One good turn deserves another."

KURODA: I would like to add that Dr. Kamchai's and Ms. Prateep's home country, Thailand, has already shifted its aid reliance from grants to yen loans.

Questions and comments from the floor

KURODA: We now have about 15 minutes left for questions and comments from the floor.

FLOOR: I have two questions for Dr. Kusano. First, as discussed earlier, Japanese ODA has been effective in many ways, but marked by inefficiencies in others. My impression is that the inefficiencies referred to also include those cases where aid funds were consumed or disappeared before they reached the people or projects they were actually intended for. My question here is, in what way can essential frameworks or structures be set up to ensure that aid funds actually reach their intended beneficiaries?

Now, to my other question. I have a friend who is working on his own to build school structures in Nepal. According to him, over half the aid funding for projects that are implemented through official aid frameworks or channels tend to be utilized to cover the cost of running those organized aid frameworks themselves. So, in some cases, only half the total funding ever reaches its intended beneficiary. Of course, I realize that institutional operating costs are a necessary and justifiable expense, but I also think it's important to find ways of striking some kind of balance. If you have some insights to offer on this particular topic, I'd appreciate it if you would share them with us.

KUSANO: I don't think I can adequately answer that last question, but as to the first, I would agree that there have been some glaring inefficiencies. In some cases, one has to wonder whether the aid was used to build schools or hospitals designed to meet the needs of the developing recipient. Or, whether it was really necessary to build a certain impressive new center with functions that seem unlikely to be used. These are among the questions and doubts that have been frequently aired. So, at least on a project-by-project basis, problems with aid efficiency or effectiveness can of course be found.

Also, as you have suggested, in some cases aid funding has fallen directly into the hands of politicians or government officials in the recipient country. This is how I look at it, though. I realize it may seem rude to many of you here as

representatives of developing countries, but I want to say “that is why a developing country is a developing country”. Also, since Mr. Hotta is present, I don’t feel that I am in any position to brag on Japan’s behalf (laughing). However, as measured in terms of local corruption and graft, Japan still appears to be cleaner than certain developing countries.

Japan has its ODA Charter, which incorporates various provisions calling for, say, a better balance in outlays for environmental and development projects, or that rule out the use of ODA funds for projects of a military nature. Unfortunately, it does not contain any provisions against corruption or graft, per se, so it does seem necessary that new provisions for that purpose be drawn up and added, or that new guidelines of some kind be improvised.

On the second question just raised, the suggestion seems to have been that adequate care is out of the question because Japan does not provide funding for institutional operations in recipient countries. However, I would have to say the reverse is true. The fact is that to be successful, big projects demand an enormous amount of backup funding. In Japan’s case, though, you have to bear in mind that personnel expenses also tend to be very high. I don’t think this answers your question, though.

KAMCHAI: I’d like to add a comment, if I may. As I see it, yardsticks of aid project success or effectiveness vary from country to country. In some cases, for instance, people in the recipient country will be satisfied that the outcome of a given project was good enough even though their Japanese counterparts might see it as a failure or a poor attempt, at best. The criteria for definitions of poverty also vary. Poverty in Japan is a far cry from poverty in a developing country. One may wonder why Japan furnishes foreign aid when so many people in Japan still live below the poverty line. The reality is that conditions of poverty abroad tend to be far more appalling. My point here is that comparisons and evaluations of this kind are often beyond generalization.

More specifically, I believe that the criteria of project success or effectiveness vary not only by country, but also by the stage of development.

Also, my feeling is that working together and sharing in the sweat, trials and tribulations, and joy of helping and being helped mean much more than any objective statistical measure. This is why I am hopeful that instead of pinning so much importance on hard evaluations, Japan will continue to generously supply aid. [laughter] As I see it, the Japanese people are extremely sensitive to detail. I am convinced that as long as you put your heart into it, your success in the aid field will be guaranteed.

As to the amount of funding Japan uses for its overseas aid frameworks in operation, the figure seems small if you compare it to the amounts used by various multilateral institutions. Let me give one example. The OECF has a work force of 330 personnel. The World Bank, by contrast, had 6059 employees as of last count. In terms of the interim budget approved, the OECF approved \$11.6 billion in aid outlays. The World Bank approved outlays totaling \$22.5 billion. On a per-employee basis, though, that works out to \$35 million for the OECF, and only \$4 million for the World Bank. To me, these statistics suggest Japan’s aid institutions are by no means handling their aid budgets very inefficiently. I imagine JICA is not very wasteful, either. [laughter]

KURODA: I believe we have time for another question from the floor.

FLOOR: I am from Republic of Korea. I notice that two of your panelists are from Thailand. Interestingly, Thailand was a country not colonized during its imperialist era. Though Thailand has no history as a colony, today, 50 years after World War II, it remains in much the same developmental stage as many of those countries that were colonies at one point. In brief, this appears to be due to the fact that Thailand has yet to adopt principles of modern economic rationalism. Japan, on the other hand, proved eager to adopt rationalist doctrine around the time it opened up its markets for trade and commerce with the West. I suspect this is one of the prime reasons it succeeded in gaining an economic edge.

From the beginning of this symposium today, I listened intently to everything Ms. Prateep had to

say about the Prateep Foundation and its activities. There are, of course, other individuals like Ms. Prateep who have devoted themselves to volunteer service in many parts of the developing world. Ultimately, though, in some cases they have been forced to organize and receive aid funds in order to keep their own projects going. In my view, to avoid that path, Ms. Prateep's Foundation will eventually face the necessity of streamlining itself for efficiency in line with principles of economic rationalism.

On another topic, as Dr. Kusano mentioned a moment ago, corruption in the developing world has in reality had a decisive impact on the efficiency of aid. On the other hand, there was no evidence of corruption when Japan years ago borrowed huge sums of money from the World Bank for various infrastructure projects cited earlier today. One reason, though, is because Japan had already fully adopted the principles of economic rationalism and efficiency.

In supplying aid to the developing world in the years ahead, Japan must review its policies, particularly with respect to the issues of corruption and economic streamlining. This is something that must not be forgotten. Some developing countries may not like the idea of adopting rationalization principles. However, unless they do, I suspect we will be gathering for symposiums like this one for the next 50 to 100 years.

KURODA: Thank you for sharing your views. We still have about a minute or so left, so Ms. Prateep, if you have anything you would like to say in response....

PRATEEP: As I mentioned earlier, there are certain areas where it should be coordinated, not just only government to government. Nowadays we have many NGOs working with us, NGO to NGO. But maybe between the government and the NGO, it's hard to see a certain case. I really want to see the government and the NGO work together. Thank you very much.

KURODA: Thank you.

I see someone on the floor has their hand up. You may go ahead and speak, please.

FLOOR: I am an engineer from Bangladesh, but I

have lived in Japan for quite some time. Briefly, I would like to voice some of the impressions I received from this symposium today.

First of all, in some respects this gathering seems to have had a festive atmosphere. Furthermore, I think we lost valuable time because not enough effort was made to focus in on topics for discussion. For example, the environmental theme was raised, but that issue is simply not narrow enough to be accorded its due by a one-day symposium. Incidentally, I attended this gathering today not so much to hear about environmental topics, but to participate in a realistic dialogue concerning the possibilities of ODA as well as its limits, assuming those limits exist. My assumption was that symposiums are supposed to be interactive. However, having had the chance only to hear what the panelists had to say, I personally have the feeling that my time was wasted to a certain extent. I hope the proceedings are managed a bit more efficiently in the future.

On a brighter note, the chance to hear what Ms. Prateep and Ms. Okuda had to say about the utilization of valuable tax funds made me feel that my participation today was all the more worthwhile. I certainly hope more people like them, people who share their views, become active in the field of volunteer service.

My apologies if my impressions about the symposium seem a bit too harsh.

KURODA: Today was designated a day to think about international cooperation. To be sure, though, one day is simply not enough to fully discuss any single topic in detail. I realize we did not have enough time, but let me thank you all for your kind attention. [applause]

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