

Chapter 9

Strengthening Strategic International Development and Contributions

Section 1

Promoting the Overseas Development of Infrastructure Systems

1 General Government Policy

The government established the “Management Council for Infrastructure Strategy” in March 2013 and compiled the “Export Strategy for Infrastructure Systems” in May of the same year, based on deliberations on government policies carried out by ministers involved, including the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. A revised version of this strategy was formulated in May 2017 with the aim of Japanese companies securing orders for overseas infrastructure systems totaling up to approximately JPY 30 trillion in 2020 (approximately JPY 10 trillion in 2010). The active promotion of the overseas development of infrastructure systems is also stated in “Growth Strategy 2017” (approved by the Cabinet in June 2017).

In May 2015, a Partnership for Quality Infrastructure incorporating the provision of approximately 110 billion dollars of Japan’s Quality Infrastructure Investment in the Asian region over the ensuing five-year period was announced by Prime Minister Abe. Through this partnership, the government aims to further mobilize private-sector funds and expertise to realize infrastructure investments that are sufficient in terms of both quality and quantity. In November of the same year, the Prime Minister announced that systemic improvements of yen loans and overseas investments and loans and other more specific measures for the Partnership for Quality Infrastructure would be carried out.

Prior to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, the Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure Initiative announced by Prime Minister Abe set out policies to expand the target area from Asia to the entire world, and to provide USD 200 billion of investments over the ensuing five-year period. The participants of the G7 Summit reached a consensus regarding the importance of the global community sharing a common understanding of the basic elements of Quality Infrastructure Investment, and agreed upon the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment.

2 Initiatives of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

In accordance with the abovementioned strategy and by making the most of the aforementioned systemic improvements, MLIT will powerfully advance the overseas developments of infrastructure systems in sectors MLIT is concerned. In order to successfully overcome competition with foreign countries and win bids for Japanese companies, we must rely on Japan’s strengths, such as by building safe and reliable systems that combine structural and non-structural aspects, while flexibly addressing the needs of recipient countries. Therefore, we are planning to promote three pillars of the applicable measures: (i) “upstream” planning and information sharing, (ii) mitigation of business risks, and (iii) overseas development of soft infrastructure.

(i) ‘Upstream’ planning and information sharing

In order to promote participation from the concept stage of each project (upstream), Japan will appeal its technology to foreign countries, especially how it provides safety, reliability, and superior cost-effectiveness in the long run, including with respect to the operations stage. Japan will share these information by utilizing trade promotion activities carried out through joint efforts by leaders in the public and private sectors, organizing city tours for foreign ambassadors in Japan, and taking advantage of opportunities at international conferences.

(ii) Mitigating business risks

We established the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) in October 2014 to reduce business risks—such as huge initial investments, long-term maintenance requirements, and demand risks—incurred by companies expanding into downstream (management and operations) functions in the field of transportation and urban infrastructure, and are seeking to provide multifaceted support to Japanese companies involved in the overseas development of infrastructure systems through the proactive use of JOIN, as well as through such means as the establishment of a hotline for overseas construction and safety measures to serve as a liaison to help resolve problems faced by companies that challenges into overseas markets; the dissemination of updated information through databases of overseas construction, real estate markets and etc.; support through mission dispatches and other efforts to help small and medium-sized construction firms develop into overseas markets; and support for developing into third countries that collaborate with geopolitically important countries.

(iii) Overseas development of soft infrastructure

Various efforts are underway to create an environment ideal for Japanese companies to participate in projects, including international standardization of Japanese technologies and systems, becoming the “de facto standard” of partner countries, supporting for institutional development of partner countries to improve the business environment for Japanese companies, and supporting for training engineers and skilled workers that contribute to sustaining administration and maintenance of infrastructure in partner countries.

(1) Establishment of System to Promote Overseas Infrastructure System Development

Regarding overseas infrastructure projects where MLIT is concerned, in order to strongly promote the development of Japanese business firms to go overseas, the Cabinet approved the Act for Promotion of the Participation of the Japanese Business in Overseas Infrastructure Projects in March 2018 and submitted it to the Diet, which enables the minister for MLIT to set up basic policies of overseas social infrastructure development, and which enables administrative agencies to do investigations and etc. overseas, so as to engage in overseas projects.

(2) Top Sales Promotion

In FY 2017, Keiichi Ishii, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, visited eight countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the United States of America, and engaged in top sales of Japanese infrastructure systems by holding discussions and exchanging opinions with top officials and cabinet ministers authorized in the same sectors in these countries. In addition, the State Ministers and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of the MLIT visited a total of 21 countries including Myanmar, Colombia and Senegal, and promoted Japan’s infrastructure systems to countries with potential infrastructure demands. Additionally, visits to Japan by foreign ministers and dignitaries, the hosting of seminars, and other such opportunities were actively used to send messages of the superiority of Japanese infrastructure systems.

Column**Strong Promotion of Top Sales**

During FY 2017, the Minister, State Ministers, and Parliamentary Vice-Ministers of the MLIT conducted sales promotion of Japan’s infrastructure systems to key government officials. Here, we introduce examples of top sales by the Minister.

(1) Official trip to Singapore and Malaysia by Minister Keiichi Ishii.

In August 2017, Minister Keiichi Ishii visited Singapore and Malaysia to hold bilateral meetings to promote the Japanese Shinkansen system to key government officials and discuss cooperation in the infrastructure and transport sectors.

In Singapore, he attended a symposium on high-speed rail and expressed his intent to share the experience, skills and know-how Japan has gained from its Shinkansen system with key persons in Singapore and to deepen the relationship between the two countries. He also attended the port seminar, and urged the need of strengthening of cooperative relations with Japan to promote LNG bunkering and to work toward the realization of a next-generation container terminal.

In Malaysia, Minister Ishii attended a ceremony to commemorate the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Training Center for marine traffic control where he stressed the significance of Japanese support in the establishment of the center as part of enhancing ASEAN navigation safety measures, and expressed his hopes that the center will ensure the safety of marine transportation for ASEAN in the future and lead to the further development of cooperative relations between Japan and ASEAN.

(2) Official trip to Myanmar by Kazuo Yana, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of MLIT

In November 2017, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kazuo Yana attended a ceremony on urban development projects by Japanese companies in Yangon, Myanmar. As these projects are symbolic of friendly relations between Myanmar and Japan, he expressed his intent to provide the utmost support for the realization of many projects by Japanese companies, and to contribute to the development and resolution of urban problems in Myanmar. Parliamentary Vice-Minister Yana also toured the sites of ongoing urban development projects promoted by Japanese companies.

(3) Official trip to Sri Lanka and India by Minister Ishii

In December 2017, Minister Ishii engaged in discussions about infrastructure and transportation sector policy with key persons from the Sri Lankan and Indian governments. The officials exchanged opinions about cooperation with Sri Lanka in the fields of water- and sediment-related disasters, the need for sewage system improvement triggered by urbanization, and more, and cooperation with India on high-speed railway projects and other railway projects, urban development around high-speed railway stations, roads and more.

Discussions with Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak



Source) MLIT

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kazuo Yana delivers the greeting at a ceremony



Source) MLIT

Discussions with India Minister of Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs Piyush Goyal



Source) MLIT

(4) Official trip to Senegal and Morocco by Takao Makino, State Minister of MLIT

In January 2018, State Minister Takao Makino was joined by roughly 20 member companies of the Japan-Africa Infrastructure Development Association (JAIDA), which was launched in September 2016, in hosting a public-private infrastructure conference in Senegal. At the conference, and in the presence of Senegal President Macky Sall, State Minister Makino and Senegal Minister of Infrastructure, Land Transport and Opening-Up Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo signed a memorandum of understanding on the promotion of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment and the continuation of cooperative relations, and agreed to launch a Dialogue on Quality Infrastructure so that the discussion would continue after the conference. The two sides also exchanged views on projects that are expected to involve the cooperation of Japanese companies, such as the "Project for Rehabilitation of the Third Wharf in Dakar Port" and the "Mamelles Seawater Desalination Project."

In Morocco, State Minister Makino and Morocco Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water Abdelkader Aâmara signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the cooperative promotion of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment in which the two countries agreed to deepen cooperative relations to promote the development of quality infrastructure jointly with Morocco and other African countries. He also recommended Japanese companies to top-level officials in hopes of winning bids for Japanese firms in the "Kenitra Atlantic Ocean New Port Construction Project."

(5) Official trip to the USA by Minister Ishii

In January 2018, Minister Keiichi Ishii held Japan Infrastructure Investment Forum 2018 in Washington D.C. based on a memorandum of cooperation in the field of transportation infrastructure signed with the US Department of Transportation in October 2017. In the keynote speech, which Minister Ishii jointly delivered with US Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, he stressed the importance and possibilities of Japan-US cooperation in infrastructure maintenance to the attendees.

He also exchanged opinions with Secretary Chao and US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson in bilateral discussions about the Texas high-speed railway, Japan-US infrastructure cooperation and future housing and urban policy.

Conclusion of memorandum of understanding between State Minister Makino and Senegal Minister of Infrastructure, Land Transport and Opening-Up Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo



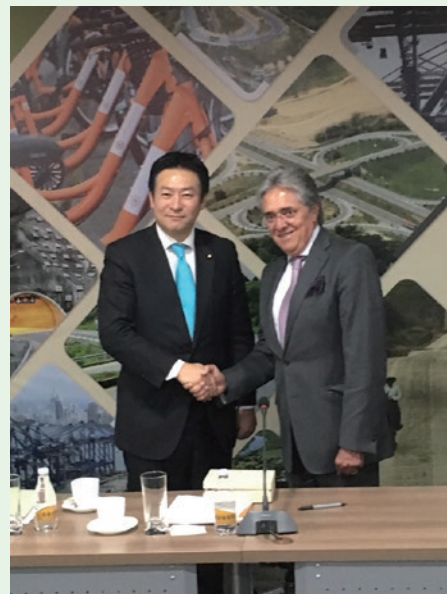
Source) MLIT

Discussions with US Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao



Source) MLIT

Discussions with Colombia Minister of Transport Germán Cardona



Source) MLIT

(6) Official trip to Panama and Colombia by Tsukasa Akimoto, State Minister of MLIT

In January 2018, State Minister Tsukasa Akimoto made an official trip to Panama and Colombia. In Panama, he participated in the Japan-Panama Dialogue on Maritime Affairs Policy with the CEO of the Panama Canal Authority Jorge L. Quijano and Panama Deputy Administrator of the Panama Maritime Authority Agustin Moreno. The two sides agreed to continue to deepen cooperation between the two nations. In Colombia, State Minister Akimoto met with Colombia Minister of Transport Germán Cardona to exchange views on cooperation on railway projects such as the Bogotá Metro, and in the infrastructure such as ports and harbors) and transportation sectors.

(3) Formulating Action Plan 2018 of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism for Overseas Development of Infrastructure Systems

The demand for infrastructure has rapidly increased in various countries including neighboring ASEAN member countries, and the heightened competition of winning bids has been getting fiercer. The government as a whole has strived to achieve the “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” delivered by Prime Minister Abe through, for example, fundamental institutional improvements to win more orders. The role of the MLIT is large in Japan’s overseas development of infrastructure, and this must be further promoted through new activities which act accordingly to changes in the present situation in concert with national diplomacy strategies, while continuing and strengthening current efforts and making most of institutional improvements. In light of the submission of the Act for Promotion of the Participation of the Japanese Business in Overseas Infrastructure Projects and the progress of various projects and other matters, Action Plan 2018, which was devised in March 2018, sets out five strategies: (1) establishment of “Team Japan”, (2) strengthening of competitiveness, (3) measures towards increasing PPP projects, (4) increasing opportunities to win business through contributions to partner countries, and (5) continuous support for companies after contracting. The Plan also includes specific efforts in diverse fields including railways, ports and harbors, airports, urban/real estate development, and the construction industry.

(4) Further Use of Private-Sector Funds for the Overseas Development of Infrastructure Systems

The world-wide infrastructure market is projected to continue growing; in particular, we are seeing more requests for public-private partnerships (PPP) based on the use of private-sector funds. However, since transportation and urban development projects are characterized as long-term development, demand risks during the operations stage, and local government organs exercising their influence, participation by private-sector players alone is sometimes challenging.

For this reason, the MLIT established the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) in October 2014 to carry out capital investments and participate in projects on an integrated basis in accordance with demand risks in order to help Japanese private companies participate in overseas markets for transportation and urban development. Until today, JOIN has decided (with the authorization of the Minister of the MLIT) to provide support on eleven projects involving ports and harbors, railways, urban development and logistics. In addition, in light of the Quality Infrastructure Export Expansion Initiative announced by Prime Minister Abe in May 2016, we have implemented further systemic improvements for the overseas development of quality infrastructure, such as revising government ordinances and deregulating the “biggest investor standard.” Furthermore, we have concluded memorandums of understanding with private companies and relevant government organizations from Singapore, Argentina and other countries. In FY 2018, 126.8 billion yen was posted to the Fiscal Investment and Loan Program (63.9 billion yen for industry investments and 62.9 billion yen for government guarantees). JOIN will continuingly be utilized proactively.

(5) Promoting International Strategic Public Relations

In order to further advance the overseas development of infrastructure systems, initiatives for strategic publicity shall be promoted, such as by producing and effectively highlighting public relation to convey the concept of a high-quality infrastructure, a salient feature of infrastructure systems in Japan, in an easy-to-understand manner. We will utilize the videos that we produced which specifically convey the concept of high-quality infrastructure, at top-level trade promotion activities, occasions when dignitaries visit Japan and seminars. We will also call for online broadcasting channels and

transmission media to reach broad audiences in targeted countries and regions.

(6) Initiatives in Different Countries and Regions

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, public-private partnership-based infrastructure conferences and bilateral dialogues are being continued to promote greater understanding of high-quality infrastructure investments advocated by Japan as a way to create opportunities to advance the overseas development of infrastructure systems through public-private partnerships. Overseas public-private partnership councils have also been established in different fields of infrastructure—namely eco-cities, water, roads, disaster prevention, rail, ports and harbors, and aviation—to facilitate sharing information on Japanese infrastructure.

For example, in developing Talks for Cooperation in Disaster Prevention in the pursuit of solutions for an emerging country dealing with disaster-prevention issues in collaboration with academic, business, and government circles in both countries, Japanese technologies would be introduced and proposed to the government of the other country through a partnership with the Japan Disaster Prevention Platform, an organization building a cooperative framework among academic, business, and government circles established in June 2014. In order to promote such projects as those involving participation in the development and operations of ports and harbors in Myanmar, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique and elsewhere, the introduction of port EDI system in Myanmar and Cambodia, and the introduction of national technical standards for port and harbor facilities in Vietnam, the development of human resources is being enriched, and information sharing, exchanges of views and other efforts through the Overseas Port Logistics Projects Council are being implemented. In addition, public-private partnership initiatives are being carried out through the Japan Conference on Overseas Development of Eco-Cities and other such bodies tasked with promoting urban development overseas, and support was provided for Japan to have an exhibition booth at MIPIM, an international real estate show for professionals (held in Cannes, France in March 2016).

In addition, we have implemented verification projects regarding the modernization of agricultural product logistics systems in Myanmar and the promotion of the use of freight railways in India as a logistics pilot project for the overseas development of Japanese quality logistics systems.

The MLIT has also cooperated with Japanese expressway companies to develop Japanese quality expressway systems overseas; in FY 2017, we participated in overseas toll road projects in Vietnam with the Central Nippon Expressway Company and in India with the East Japan Expressway Company.

In June 2017, we launched the Japan Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises for Overseas Construction (JASMOC) to promote development into the international market by small and medium-sized Japanese construction companies, and have hosted seminars in Japan, dispatched missions and made other efforts to help those companies sell their distinct technologies and make connections with key persons in foreign countries.

Discussions, collaborations, and other initiatives promoting the overseas development of infrastructure systems and undertaken with different regions and countries in FY 2017 are outlined below.

(i) ASEAN region

In the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which was launched at the end of 2015 in pursuit of the realization of a giant single market, emphasis on economic development through the reinforcement of regional connectivity and other efforts have produced expectations of increased activity in the movement of people, goods and other items in the future.

Amidst a growing number of requests for system development support from developing countries and other ASEAN member states, and to promote the development of human resources capable of spreading the development of systems related to land and construction, in September 2017, the MLIT brought government workers from the ASEAN member states together in one place to implement a construction policy program that provided courses on relevant systems and on-site inspection tours.

In FY 2017, we implemented the following bilateral efforts with the respective ASEAN member states.

- Indonesia

In July 2017, Indonesia Minister for Public Works and Housing Basuki Hadimuljono and others were invited to Japan. Minister Basuki and MLIT Minister Ishii held meetings where they exchanged views on cooperation involving social

infrastructure improvement—namely road and dam redevelopment and sewage systems—and confirmed their intent to further improve bilateral relations.

In October 2017, we co-hosted the Japan-Indonesia Technology Corporation Seminar with the Bandung Institute of Technology for the purpose of helping small and medium-sized Japanese construction companies sell their technologies and make connections with key people in Indonesia.

In November 2017, the eighth meeting of the Japan-Indonesia Senior Transport Officials was held in Tokyo. At this meeting, opinions were exchanged on solutions to issues, the future direction of cooperation and other matters concerning railways, ports and harbors, aviation and other important matters for cooperation between the two countries in the transportation sector. The two sides confirmed their intent to continue cooperating and collaborating closely on structural aspects such as infrastructure construction as well as non-structural aspects such as system establishment and human resources development. In addition, at the 10th Japan-Indonesia Conference on Construction, which was held in Jakarta, opinions were exchanged about the construction industry, namely efforts to improve productivity and future policy for the industry.

In December 2017, Indonesia Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan visited Japan and held a meeting with MLIT Minister Ishii. At this meeting, the two sides confirmed their intent to further improve cooperative relations between Japan and Indonesia heading into 2019, which marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In addition, the Seminar on Dam Rehabilitation and Bridges was held in Jakarta. At the seminar, which was attended by Minister Basuki, detailed proposals from Japan regarding dam rehabilitation and bridge deterioration/earthquake-proofing countermeasures and other matters were explained and shared with many key people from the Indonesia side.

In January 2018, the fifth meeting of the Japan-Indonesia Senior Construction Officials was held in Tokyo in conjunction with the Indonesia Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing. The overall meeting was broken down into themes such as dam rehabilitation and tunnel technology. The fields of roads, housing and construction, disaster prevention and water resources, sewage systems, and construction were discussed in individual working groups. In addition, the two sides exchanged information about efforts, challenges, technology and other matters in both countries alongside poster presentations that introduced the technology of Japanese companies.

- Thailand

In May 2017, MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Yukinori Nemoto made an official trip to Thailand, where he held discussions about policy issues in the railway, transportation safety, flood countermeasures, bus transportation and other sectors.

During a visit to Japan by Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, Minister of Transport Arkhom Termpittayapaisith and Minister of Science and Technology Achaka Sriboonreung in June 2017, the third meeting of the Japan-Thailand High Level Joint Commission was held with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and MLIT Minister Ishii in attendance to promote cooperation projects between the two countries. At the meeting, Minister Ishii concluded two memoranda of cooperation, one with Minister Arkhom concerning the railway sector, and another with Minister Achaka for the establishment of a network of GNSS-based control stations.

In December 2017, MLIT State Minister Takao Makino made an official trip to Thailand, where he engaged in top sales and policy discussions about development, mainly in the railway and tourism sectors. State Minister Makino also submitted the final report of the feasibility study on the high-speed railway from Bangkok to Chiang Mai to Minister Arkhom, and encouraged the Thai government to approve the project as quickly as possible to enable the introduction of a Japanese Shinkansen system.

In February 2018, the MLIT introduced Japan's systems and technology related to recycled asphalt in a seminar dedicated to the topic in order to promote the establishment and diffusion of construction recycling systems.

- Vietnam

In April 2017, MLIT Minister Ishii held a meeting with Ho Chi Minh City Communist Party Committee Secretary Tan, who was on an official visit to Japan. At the meeting, they exchanged views on the development of underground shopping areas, railways, roads and other infrastructure in Ho Chi Minh City.

That same month, Minister Ishii held a meeting with Vietnam Minister of Planning and Investment Zun, who was on an official visit to Japan. At the meeting, they exchanged views on airports, underground shopping area development, railways, roads, ports and harbors, automobiles and other sectors in Vietnam.

In June 2017, MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Ono and Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs Mori individually held meetings with Vietnam Vice-Minister of Transport Duong, who was on an official visit to Japan. At these meetings, they exchanged views on ports and harbors, airports, roads and other sectors in Vietnam. In addition, at the Akasaka State Guest House, with Prime Minister Abe and Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc witnessing, a “Memorandum on Cooperation in Developing National Technical Standards for Port and Harbor Facilities,” and a “Memorandum of Cooperation Regarding Expressway PPP Projects,” which aims to actualize PPP projects for expressways in Vietnam, were signed with the Vietnam Minister of Transport.

In July 2017, Vice-Minister for International Affairs of MLIT Narahira made an official trip to Hanoi, Vietnam, and held a meeting of the Japan-Vietnam Senior Transport Officials. At the meeting, senior transport officials engaged in policy discussions about matters for cooperation between the two countries in the transportation sector.

In October 2017, as part of the Disaster Management Collaborative Dialogue with the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the MLIT hosted a public-private workshop with Vietnam where efforts were made to enhance disaster prevention cooperation in both countries under public-private cooperation in the field of landslides and sediment disasters.

In November 2017, a joint job fair for Vietnamese technical university students was held in pursuit of building networks in Vietnam and securing and training human resources who can contribute to the expansion of Japanese companies into Vietnam.

In December 2017, in order to strengthen cooperative relations between Japan and Vietnam and land-related sectors and provide support for establishing legislation, the two sides shared knowledge and experience and concluded a memorandum of understanding concerning the joint promotion of pilot projects for introducing information systems concerning Japanese-style land evaluation in Vietnam. In addition, the MLIT worked together with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies to implement training for Vietnamese government personnel to support the improvement and diffusion of land-related systems.

In December 2017, MLIT State Minister Makino made an official trip to Vietnam, where he engaged in top sales to promote exchange in the tourism sector, the development of cooperation projects in which the introduction of Japanese quality transportation infrastructure systems are investigated, and other matters to key people in Vietnam.

In January 2018, MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Tsukasa Akimoto made an official trip to Vietnam, where he participated in the Japan-Vietnam Transportation Technology Cooperation Seminar. At the seminar, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto furthered understanding of Japanese Quality Infrastructure by introducing soft infrastructure (technology/standards, operation and management, human resources, etc.) and the Japanese transportation sector in an effort to promote the production of Japanese infrastructure in Vietnam.

At the 10th Vietnam Expressway Seminar held in the same month, opinions were exchanged about systems in Vietnam, Japan’s efforts in Vietnam, including proposals regarding PPP projects for roads.

In February 2018, the MLIT introduced Japan’s systems and technology related to recycled asphalt in a seminar dedicated to the topic in order to promote the establishment and diffusion of construction recycling systems.

In March 2018, the 11th intergovernmental conference regarding the sewerage sector was held based on the memorandum of cooperation in the sewerage sector concluded with the Vietnam Ministry of Construction (and updated in April 2017).

- Philippines

In November 2017, the first Japan-Philippines Conference on Construction was held to strengthen relationships in the construction sector and for other purposes. At the conference, opinions were exchanged about efforts related to training human resources in construction and other matters.

- Malaysia and Singapore

In April 2017, a meeting of the Japan-Singapore Senior Transport Officials was held in Singapore. At the meeting—the

first since the two countries agreed at the Japan-Singapore Summit Meeting held in September 2016 to host meetings of senior officials from relevant ministries and agencies to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the land, sea and air transport sectors—the two sides exchanged views on the state of current efforts, the direction of future cooperation and other matters concerning the various transport sectors.

In April 2017, a memorandum of cooperation in the port and harbor sector was concluded with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. Based on this memorandum, in August 2017, the Singapore & Japan Port Seminar 2017 was held, and the Japan-Singapore Joint Study on LNG Bunkering was launched.

On official trips to Malaysia and Singapore in May and August 2017, MLIT Minister Ishii exchanged opinions with key people from both governments about cooperation in the transportation, urban development and other infrastructure and transport sectors, and bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector. He also attended symposia on high-speed railways in Malaysia in May and in Singapore in August, where he stressed the social and economic advantages Malaysia and Singapore stand to gain from introducing a Japanese Shinkansen system, as well as the human resources development, technology transfer and other benefits of cooperation with Japan.

In December 2017, MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto made an official trip to Malaysia, and held meetings with Malaysia Deputy Prime Minister Devamany and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Vice-Minister Hamim. At the meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Devamany, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto promoted Japan's role in the Malaysia-Singapore high-speed railway plan and confirmed Japan's intent to continue to implement human resources development and strengthen cooperative relations between the two countries to enable the introduction of a Japanese Shinkansen system. At the meeting with Vice-Minister Hamim, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto confirmed Japan's intent to cooperate toward finding solutions in the field of water-related disasters—which is significant because flood damage occurs often in both Japan and Malaysia—and to continue to share knowledge about the advanced use of geospatial information.

- Myanmar

In July 2017, JOIN decided (with the authorization of the Minister of MLIT) to provide support for an urban development project that calls for the construction and operation of a complex in downtown Yangon.

In October 2017, Vice-Minister for International Affairs of MLIT Narahira made an official trip to Naypyidaw, Myanmar, and held a meeting of the Japan-Myanmar Senior Transport Officials. At the meeting, policy discussions were held about matters for cooperation between the two countries in the transportation sector.

In November 2017, MLIT State Minister Makino held a meeting with Myanmar Ministry of Transport and Communications Vice-Minister Kyaw Myo, who was on an official visit to Japan. At the meeting, the two sides exchanged opinions on projects in the railway and airport sectors in Myanmar as well as traffic mitigation and transportation safety measures in Yangon.

That same month, in light of the 2016 memorandum of cooperation concerning the housing and urban sectors in both countries, the MLIT provided support for housing finance, and made a preliminary announcement about the Housing Finance Expansion Project, an ODA loan.

In December 2017, MLIT Minister Ishii made an official trip to Yangon, Myanmar, where he attended the third Asia-Pacific Water Summit. Minister Ishii gave speeches at the opening ceremony as well as three different sessions with the themes of water and disasters, water cycles, and sewage systems. He spoke about Japan's experiences in dealing with its own water-related issues to demonstrate Japan's presence in the field, and promoted Japanese technology for resolving those issues in an effort to contribute to the overseas development of infrastructure systems.

In January 2018, the MLIT held Talks for Cooperation in Disaster Prevention with the Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and exchanged opinions regarding cooperation concerning disaster prevention policy in both countries.

In March 2018, we helped host the third Myanmar-Japan Construction Round Table to facilitate practical discussion regarding highly detailed and urgent issues in the construction sector. In addition, the MLIT worked together with the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies to implement training for Myanmar government personnel to support the improvement and diffusion of land-related systems.

That same month, the fifth meeting of Myanmar-Japan Senior Construction Officials was held, and participants en-

gaged in policy discussion regarding roads, the construction industry, urban development and housing.

- Cambodia

In May 2017, MLIT Minister Ishii made an official trip to Cambodia, where he engaged in top sales and exchanged opinions with key government officials about cooperation in the road, port and harbor, automobile, urban development, sewage system, tourism exchange and other infrastructure, transport and tourism sectors.

In response to a request from Cambodia, JICA conducted technical training in Japan in June 2017 and held a seminar in Cambodia in December 2017 as part of Country-Focused Training: Housing Policy, a three-year plan launched in 2016.

In August 2017, when Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen made an official trip to Japan, the MLIT provided on-site inspection tours of New Transit Yurikamome and promoted the technology of Japan's new transportation systems. Also regarding new transportation systems, we provided an on-site inspection tour of Yokohama Seaside Line to the Cambodia Minister of Public Works and Transport on their visit to Japan in November 2017.

Starting in August 2017, the MLIT dispatched experts to Cambodia on four occasions to offer assistance in drafting a bill for construction legislation based on the memorandum of cooperation concluded with the Cambodia Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in January 2017.

In November 2017, Minister Ishii held meetings with Cambodia Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction Sun Chanthol, who was on an official visit to Japan. At the meetings, Minister Ishii engaged in top sales regarding Japan's roads, ports and harbors, automobiles, urban development, sewage systems and more. The MLIT also hosted an international logistics seminar on the theme of logistics in order to promote the participation of Japanese companies in logistics projects in and around Cambodia, which is located in the center of the Southern Economic Corridor.

- Laos

In April 2017, MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Nemoto made an official trip to Laos, where he engaged in policy discussions with key government officials about policy issues in the air transport, road, construction industry, logistics and other sectors. He also attended the handover ceremony for the meteorological system developed with support from Japan.

In July 2017, Laos Ministry of Public Works and Transport Bunchan made an official visit to Japan, where he exchanged opinions about infrastructure development and human resources development in the air transport, road and construction sectors in Laos.

(ii) South Asia

- India

In September 2017, during Prime Minister Abe's visit to India, letters regarding the first ODA loan (100 billion yen) were exchanged at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Railway Project.

In October 2017, the MLIT helped host the Workshop on Structural Seismic Isolation and Mitigation Technology Diffusion with the aim to promote understanding of Japanese structural earthquake-proofing technology, namely seismic isolation and mitigation technology.

In November 2017, the fourth meeting of the Japan-India Joint Working Group on Road and Road Transport was held, giving the opportunity of exchanging opinions about disaster restoration and reconstruction measures in mountainous areas, the development of bridge technology, ITS policy, rest facilities on expressways, and more.

In addition, in December 2017, the 10th Japan India Joint Working Group on Urban Development was held, and participants shared information and exchanged opinions about urban transportation, urban development and aquatic environments. Also, JOIN decided (with the authorization of the Minister of the MLIT) to provide support for a project involving participation in toll road management through the acquisition of a portion of the shares of the company that manages and operates India's existing toll roads.

Furthermore, that same month, MLIT Minister Ishii made an official visit to India, and held meetings with India Minister of Railways, Coal and Corporate Affairs Piyush Goyal and other key government officials. At these meetings, opinions were exchanged about cooperation in high-speed railway and other railway projects, urban development around high-speed railway stations, roads and other infrastructure and transport sectors.

- Sri Lanka

In December 2017, MLIT Minister Ishii made an official trip to Sri Lanka, where he exchanged opinions with key government officials about cooperation concerning water- and sediment-related disasters, sewage system improvement, the climate and other sectors.

In February 2018, the Japan-Sri Lanka Real Estate Development Seminar was held to facilitate exchanges of views about establishing cooperative relations in the real estate development sectors in both countries, as well as issues in promoting investment in both countries.

- Bangladesh

In June 2017, a memorandum of understanding concerning the establishment of a framework that grants Japanese companies preferential negotiation rights and an exemption from the competitive bidding process in specified PPP projects was concluded with the Bangladesh PPP Authority. In August 2017, the Japan-Bangladesh PPP Joint Committee was established to work toward the formulation of specific projects, and in December 2017, Japan hosted the first Japan-Bangladesh Joint PPP Platform Meeting with relevant ministries and agencies from Bangladesh.

(iii) USA

Collaboration with the USA on economic aspects continues through the Japan-US Economic Dialogue launched in April 2017, which is steered by collaboration toward the actualization of the Texas high-speed railway—a project symbolic of Japan-US cooperation—joint research by the two countries on housing for elderly people, and other efforts in the transport infrastructure sector.

At the G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting held in Cagliari, Italy in June 2017, MLIT Minister Ishii and US Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao confirmed the aim to intensify a wide range of collaboration in the transport infrastructure sector. Then, in October 2017, the MLIT and the US Department of Transportation signed a memorandum of cooperation.

As the first step toward cooperation based on this memorandum, Japan Infrastructure Investment Forum 2018 was held in Washington DC, USA in January 2018. The forum featured a joint keynote speech delivered by MLIT Minister Ishii and Secretary Chao, panel discussions and seminars about PPP and infrastructure maintenance, and the sharing of the latest technology and experiences of the two countries. With participation by 230 people from 120 groups including private sector companies from Japan and the US, the forum was an opportunity to establish networks that transcend national borders.

(iv) Middle East

- Saudi Arabia

In July 2017, Saudi Arabia Vice-Minister of Economy and Planning Mohammed Al Tuwaijri made an official visit to Japan. The MLIT provided on-site inspection tours of disaster prevention centers, and MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Nemoto engaged in top sales regarding our efforts toward disaster prevention.

- Israel

During a visit to Japan by Israel Minister of Transportation and Road Safety Yisrael Katz in October 2017, the MLIT and the Israel Ministry of Transportation and Road Safety concluded a memorandum of cooperation in the transport sector that aims to promote participation by Japanese companies in public transportation infrastructure development in the two countries.

- Turkey

In March 2018, with the aim of supporting the expansion into third countries on which Japanese and Turkish companies had cooperated, the MLIT and the Turkey Ministry of Economy jointly hosted the fourth Japan-Turkey Construction Industry conference, where business matching and other efforts were carried out to expand business for collaborating companies from both nations in Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and elsewhere.

(v) Russia

The MLIT is promoting cooperation in the urban environment and transportation infrastructure sectors based on the Cooperation Plan for Russia Living Environment Superpower, Industrial/Economic Reform, which is a comprehensive policy of the Russian government. At the Eastern Economic Forum in September 2017, the heads of state from both countries agreed to promote the further specification of the Cooperation Plan. We are driving forward with cooperation for Russia's urban environment sector through the Japan-Russia Urban Environment Issues Working Group, which works toward the realization of creating comfortable, clean cities that are easy to live and move about in, which is one of the eight items of the Cooperation Plan. The seventh general meeting was held in March 2017, and the eighth was held in August of that year. We completed an urban development pilot project in the model city of Voronezh, and in December 2017, we presented to the Russian side an urban development concept organized on the Japanese side for the city of Vladivostok.

In addition, the fourth senior officials' meeting of the Japan-Russia Working Group on Transportation was held in August 2017, and the participants exchanged opinions about railways, ports and harbors, air transport and other sectors. Furthermore, experts exchanged opinions at the second meeting of Japanese and Russian port authorities in April 2017 and the fourth meeting of Japanese and Russian railway experts in August 2017.

(vi) Central Asia

As a follow-up to Prime Minister Abe's visit to the Central Asia region in October 2015, a seminar to present the technology of Japanese companies that contribute to Quality Infrastructure was held in Uzbekistan in July 2017. In addition, in September 2017, the second Japan-Kyrgyzstan Public-Private Infrastructure Conference was held in Tokyo, and MLIT State Minister Makino and Kyrgyzstan State Agency for Investment and Export Promotion Secretary Orozobekofu signed a memorandum of understanding for continuing cooperative relations in the infrastructure sector.

(vii) Latin America

In July 2017, MLIT State Minister Tanaka made an official trip to Mexico, Peru, Argentina and Brazil, where he engaged in top sales regarding the infrastructure and transport sectors with key people in the national and state governments in each country.

In October 2017, Federico Gutiérrez, the mayor of Medellín, Colombia, made an official visit to Japan. We provided on-site inspection tours of cases of urban transportation and urban development, and MLIT Parliamentary Vice-Minister Takahashi promoted Japanese urban development and urban transportation technology at meetings with Mayor Gutiérrez.

In January 2018, MLIT State Minister Akimoto made an official visit to the Republics of Panama and Colombia. In Panama, he participated in a dialogue on maritime policy, and in Colombia, he engaged in top sales to key government officials about the railway and port and harbor sectors.

In February 2018, we hosted an Urban Transportation Seminar in Medellín to promote the overseas development of Japanese urban transportation systems.

In March 2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto visited the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Peru, and attended the eighth World Water Forum in Brazil. At the ministerial-level meetings, he presented information about the need for societies to be aware of water-related disaster prevention, and how efforts related to water cycles and other efforts by Japan can contribute to the sustainable development of countries throughout the world. The ministerial declaration that summarized the meetings demonstrated awareness of the importance of water cycle-oriented perspectives, and incorporated matters such as the securement of sufficient financial resources for disaster countermeasures. In Peru, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto engaged in top sales regarding the urban transportation sector.

(viii) Africa

We used the Japan-Africa Infrastructure Development Association (JAIDA), which was founded based on the ministerial declaration adopted at the Japan-Africa Public-Private Infrastructure Conference held in August 2016 in Kenya to coincide with TICAD VI, to proactively disseminate information to the nations of Africa regarding Japanese technology and experience in supporting Quality Infrastructure, and to promote the establishment of relationships with both public and private entities and partner countries.

In FY 2017, we hosted (ministerial-level) public-private infrastructure conferences in Ghana, Madagascar and Senegal

for the first time; to that point, the conferences had been held in eight African countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia). At the conferences, we agreed with the partner countries to launch Quality Infrastructure Dialogues (QID) as a way to continue the good relationships built at the conferences and to provide regular opportunities for people concerned to exchange opinions.

We also held the second Public-Private Infrastructure Conference with Uganda in Tokyo, and hosted QID with Zambia and Madagascar.

(ix) China

The ninth Japan-China High-Level Talks on Transportation were held in Tokyo in June 2017 to facilitate policy dialog at a vice-ministerial level between Japan and China on transportation sector issues facing both countries. The two sides exchanged opinions on three topics—(1) the state of autonomous driving and other smart transportation technology development in both Japan and China, (2) the progress of action plans agreed upon at the China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics, and efforts toward environmentally-friendly logistics, and (3) efforts toward the realization of comprehensive development of intercity transport in both Japan and China—and agreed to continue driving forward with bilateral cooperation in the transport sector.

Section 2 Promotion of International Cooperation and Negotiations

1 Initiatives in the Field of Economic Partnerships

(1) Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPP) Agreement

The TPP Agreement constitutes an economic partnership agreement forming the basis of rules governing trade and economic activities in the Asia-Pacific region as well as a pillar for a Japanese growth strategy to help the Asia-Pacific region grow. Japan participated in negotiations in July 2013, and the parties of the partnership reached an agreement in principle in October 2015. Japan signed the agreement in February 2016, and the National Diet approved it and established relevant bills in December of that year. Although the USA withdrew from the agreement in January 2017, 11 countries reached an agreement in principle for a new TPP Agreement (the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)) in November of that year. In the government procurement sector, general competitive bidding will be newly mandated in Malaysia, Vietnam and elsewhere, a change that is expected to lead to the promotion of overseas development of Japanese infrastructure systems. In addition, in light of the Japan-EU EPA, which reached an agreement in principle, the Comprehensive TPP-Related Policy Outline organized by the government in November 2015 was revised in November 2017.

(2) Japan-EU EPA and Other Economic Partnership Agreements and Free Trade Agreements (EPA/FTA)

Japan is strategically promoting economic partnerships with the Asia-Pacific region, the East Asia region, Europe, and elsewhere. As of March 2018, EPAs with 15 countries and regions (excluding the TPP) have been put into effect, signed, or are otherwise under negotiations with a view to eventually being concluded, an example of which is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership for the East Asia region (RCEP). These arrangements will serve to strengthen the international competitiveness of Japan's transport, construction, and other industries, promote international development and the opening of the service sector in partner countries, including by way of the abolition or deregulation of foreign capital restrictions, and promote the expansion of participation opportunities relating to government procurement.

The Japan-EU EPA was decided to start negotiations in March 2013. Both parties reached an agreement in principle in July 2017, and finalized the agreement in December of that year. Following the finalization of the agreement, the Government of Japan including the MLIT is accelerating efforts toward signing and putting the agreement into effect as soon as possible. As for the main content of the agreement relating to the MLIT, the agreement calls for efforts to improve market access in both Japan and the EU in the railway sector of government procurement. The agreement also includes provisions for cooperation between Japan and the EU toward promoting the international harmonization of standards and certification systems in the United Nations for automobile environment and safety standards.

Sixteen countries, including the ASEAN countries, China, South Korea, and Australia, are participating in the RCEP negotiations. These negotiations began in May 2013 and seventeen negotiation sessions have been held as of March 2018.

(3) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Discussions among interested countries and regions, including Japan, have been undertaken with a view to enacting a new Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) in order to further liberalize trade in service sectors. Negotiations began in June 2013.

2 Contributions to and the Strategic Use of International Organizations

(1) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

APEC is a framework for economic cooperation through which activities to promote trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation, economic and technical cooperation, and other such objectives are carried out to promote the sustainable growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. The MLIT is proactively involved in ministers' meetings and working groups that pertain to APEC's transportation and tourism sectors.

In the transportation sector, meetings of the transportation ministers to facilitate the flow of goods and people and support trade and investment within the given area are held.

At the 10th APEC Transport Ministers' Meeting in Papua New Guinea in October 2017, discussions were held on the topic of regional connectedness through robust, sustainable transportation and innovation, and Japan gave a presentation on the topic of promoting PPP in infrastructure projects; these discussions were summarized in the joint ministerial declaration.

In addition, the 44th meeting of the APEC Transportation Working Group, which deals with the transport sectors of APEC members, was held in Chinese Taipei in April 2017. Japan participated actively in this meeting, where liberalization, streamlining, security, safety and other factors of the transport sectors in APEC regions were discussed.

Domestically, in light of the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment adopted at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit in May 2016, relevant government officials from APEC member economies were invited to the APEC High-Level Conference on Quality Infrastructure in October 2017 in an effort to foster understanding and promote the international standardization of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment in APEC member nations. Japan released the "Report on the Results of the APEC High-Level Conference on Quality Infrastructure" in light of the discussions at the conference to promote and sustain efforts related to Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment throughout the APEC region, and proactively contributes to discussions about Quality Infrastructure in APEC.

(2) Cooperation with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

In an effort to further promote Quality Transportation in ASEAN, the MLIT is implementing various cooperation projects for overland, maritime and air transport under the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, a cooperative framework for the transportation sectors in Japan and ASEAN established in 2003. The projects include joint research on paving technologies and overload management technologies in support of global road networks, joint research regarding port and harbor technology, re-surveying of channels and improvement of nautical charts for the Singapore Strait and Strait of Malacca, training of VTS controllers at regional training centers in ASEAN, and support for air transport security systems. The "ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting" is held every year to monitor the progress of current projects and to discuss new projects and future direction.

At the 15th ASEAN and Japan Transport Ministers Meeting held in Singapore in October 2017, the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership Work Plan for 2017-2018, which is a specific implementation plan of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership, was approved, as well as three new cooperation projects: the ASEAN-Japan Cold Chain Logistics Project, the Development of the Guidelines for Maintenance of Navigation Channels in ASEAN, and the Development of Guidelines for Safety Measures with Ships' Routeing. In addition, the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Guidelines for Ports in ASEAN, and the Best Approaches Book on User-Friendliness in the Transport Sector were approved as project outcomes.

(3) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The MLIT participates in the activities of multiple OECD organizations, including the International Transport Forum (ITF), the Council Working Party on Shipbuilding (WP6), the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC), the Tourism Committee, and the Transport Research Centre (TRC) of the ITF.

The ITF hosts annual ITF Transport Ministers' Meetings at which transport ministers from 59 countries play a central role in annual meetings to facilitate high-level and open discussions with world-renowned experts and business persons regarding transport policy. Previous topics discussed include climate change in the transport sector and inclusive transportation. At a ministers' meeting in May 2017, discussions based on a theme of transportation governance were held, with an exploration of various perspectives. Participants discussed matters such as climate change countermeasures in the transport sectors in light of COP22, the sharing economy, and regulations and rules for autonomous driving.

In order to ensure normal competitive conditions in the shipbuilding industry, the Council Working Party on Shipbuilding (WP6) works toward increasing transparency by conducting reviews of the shipbuilding policies of each country and developing lists of policy support. In light of excessive public subsidies in some countries for the shipbuilding industry including massive financing for struggling shipbuilders by some governments in recent years, the WP6 has been discussing the development of a legally binding instrument to address market distorting measures in the shipbuilding sector.

The RDPC proactively conducts reviews of the policies of member countries with respect to land and regional policies, studies on urban policies in the context of green growth strategies, and surveys on resilient cities and the like, and in April 2016, the decision was made to implement projects involving the improvement of productivity in urban and regional areas. That same month, a second review by country for Japan's land and regional policies was announced. This review praised Japan, a society that is undergoing a population decline and is aging at the same time, for attempting to convert this crisis into an opportunity through a long-term, comprehensive land plan.

The TRC conducts surveys and researches on policy issues commonly applicable to member countries. Japan also participates in a working group focused on smart road use methods proposed and adopted by Japan.

(4) United Nations (UN)

(i) International Maritime Organization (IMO)

IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that establishes international rules on safety of ships and marine environment protection. Japan actively participates in the activities of this organization as a global leader in shipping and shipbuilding. In FY 2017, Japan actively contributed to discussions promoting measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships and the enforcement of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, the commencement of discussions about safety standards and other international rules for maritime autonomous surface ships, the revision of passenger ship safety standards, and the development of guidelines for maritime cybersecurity.

(ii) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

ICAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that has set forth certain rules and other stipulations for the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation and the sound and economic operations of international air transportation. Japan's financial contributions are third among member states FY2017 and Japan, as a Governing Council state under PART I (States of chief importance in air transport), actively participates in various ICAO activities and contributes to the development of international civil aviation.

Japan participated in the first Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation held in Beijing from January 31 to February 1, 2018. A ministerial declaration was adopted at this conference with the aim of accelerating efforts toward air traffic control and air transport safety in the region.

(iii) UN-Habitat

UN-HABITAT is a UN funding and planning agency specializing in human settlement issues. Japan has been an active council participant since the foundation of UN-HABITAT, and has taken advantage of its knowledge and record of accomplishment on improving land, regional, and residential environments to contribute to improving human settlement issues worldwide, with particular focus on the Asian population explosion and rapid urbanization.

The ninth World Urban Forum was held in February 2018 with the theme of implementing the New Urban Agenda, a set of guidelines for international efforts toward resolving issues related to urbanization and human settlement over the next 20 years. At the forum, Japan pledged to contribute to the realization of the New Urban Agenda through such efforts as encouraging sustainable, comprehensive urban growth through land and regional policy, Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment and other efforts. Japan also hosted exhibits to introduce Japan's outstanding advanced technology and infrastructure systems in the urban development and housing sectors.

(iv) UN efforts regarding water and disaster prevention

The MLIT participated in the ninth and 10th meetings of the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) and the Third UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters, where we discussed efforts of the global community to increase global awareness of water-related disasters, share experience and knowledge, and advance policies in each country. In addition, at the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW) sponsored by the secretary-general of the United Nations and the president of the World Bank and attended by former heads of state of many countries, the Japanese government worked together with HLPW Special Advisor and UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water Dr. Han Seung-Soo to contribute to the formulation of future action plans for water-related disaster management. Based on these actions, we intend to attend international conferences related to water and disasters during the UN International Decade for Action on the Water on a regular basis, and to contribute to resolving issues in this sector.

(v) Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Given the adoption of sustainable development goals (SDGs) at the UN Summit in September 2015, the Japanese Sustainable Development Goals Promotion Headquarters, which is chaired by Prime Minister Abe, determined indicators for implementing SDGs in Japan (SDG implementation indicators) in December 2016, and in December 2017 announced the SDGs Action Plan 2018. To realize sustainable development inside and outside Japan, the MLIT will also implement efforts toward the achievement of SDGs through related measures such as the promotion of Quality Infrastructure Investment.

(vi) UN efforts regarding geospatial information

Japan participates in the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), which is a part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and uses its experience in geospatial information implementation to contribute to the establishment of a Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) and other efforts. In addition, Japan is the chair of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), and has contributed to the UN's work regarding geospatial information through such efforts as hosting the sixth UN-GGIM-AP plenary meeting in the city of Kumamoto in October 2017.

(5) World Bank (WB)

At international events held in November 2017 and February 2018 by the World Bank for key people involved in urban development in various countries, the MLIT introduced Japanese knowledge of urban development in order to effectively share information about Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment with infrastructure officials in other countries.

(6) Conference on African Development (TICAD)

In August 2016 at TICAD VI, the first TICAD conference held in Africa, the Nairobi Declaration, which mentioned the importance of Quality Infrastructure Investment, was adopted. In light of this declaration and the Leaders' Statement for the Promotion of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment adopted by cabinet ministers from Japan and various African countries at the Japan-Africa Public-Private Infrastructure Conference held to coincide with TICAD VI, we are promoting

efforts such as these public-private infrastructure conferences to promote Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment in Africa. To prepare for TICAD VII, which is scheduled to be held in Japan in 2019, we will accelerate efforts to promote understanding of Japan's Quality Infrastructure Investment.

3 Multilateral and Bilateral International Negotiations and Collaborative Initiatives in Different Sectors

(1) National Land Policy Sector

We regularly hold bilateral director-level conferences with South Korea at which we exchange information concerning similar issues affecting both countries regarding national land policy, regional policy and land policy. In light of international agreements from Habitat III regarding the strategic promotion of national land policy, we will establish a Platform for Support of National Land/Regional Plan Formulation/Promotion by Asian nations and international organizations in order to proactively promote the overseas deployment of Japanese national land policy and regional policy.

(2) Urban Sector

In FY 2017, we held bilateral discussions on urban policy with South Korea, China and France. In addition, we have notified Japanese municipalities about the EU International Urban Cooperation Project, in which cities throughout the world are paired with cities in the EU for intercity cooperation, and cooperated in the selection of participating cities.

In response to a request from the Myanmar Ministry of Construction, we provided support for the development of an enforcement ordinance for urban and regional development planning legislation, conducted a study of infrastructure plans for balanced urban development in the city of Yangon, and also implemented technical cooperation through the dispatch of JICA experts.

(3) Water Sector

Based on the common understanding of water problems as global-scale problems, discussions toward the resolution of these problems are taking place at international conferences and other venues. MLIT Minister Ishii attended the third Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Myanmar in December 2017, and spoke about Japan's experiences in dealing with its own water-related issues to demonstrate Japan's presence in the field, and promoted Japanese technology for resolving those issues in an effort to contribute to the overseas development of infrastructure systems. The Yangon Declaration, which was created as an output of the summit, maps out a route for water security for sustainable development. The declaration incorporated management of sound water cycles, investing in advance to reduce the risk of disasters, sanitation and sewage control, and other matters brought up by Japan. In addition, in March 2018, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Akimoto attended the eighth World Water Forum in Brazil, where he presented information about the need for societies to be aware of water-related disaster prevention, and how efforts related to water cycles and other efforts by Japan can contribute to the sustainable development of countries throughout the world at the ministerial-level meetings. The ministerial declaration that summarized the meetings demonstrated awareness of the importance of water cycle-oriented perspectives, and incorporated matters such as the securement of sufficient financial resources for disaster countermeasures.

In addition, Japan is coordinating efforts with the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) to contribute to the dissemination and promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Furthermore, we have hosted bilateral meetings about water resource management and other topics with South Korea. At these meetings, we have shared information about current circumstances, pioneering efforts and other matters in each country. In addition, we hosted the third China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Water, at which the three countries jointly declared their intent to cooperate with one another in an effort to achieve SDGs.

In addition, the Water and Environmental Solution Hub, an alliance of local governments; the Japan Sewage Works Agency; the MLIT; and others has provided expertise on sewage works to developing countries through seminars, training, and other programs.

(4) Disaster Management Sector

To reduce the damage of water disasters around the world, the MLIT disseminated Japan's experiences and technology and made efforts to establish international solidarity regarding the strengthening of water disaster prevention in order

to build consensus that disaster prevention is the key to sustainable development. We engaged in coordination between industry, academia and government between Japan and Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar and other countries dealing with disaster-related issues to deploy efforts toward Disaster Prevention Collaboration Dialogues in each country to strengthen cooperative relations in the disaster prevention sector during normal times. We are currently moving ahead with the formulation of projects that use Japanese technology in the fields of dam rehabilitation, which makes effective use of existing dams, and sediment-related disaster countermeasures. We hosted bilateral meetings about the river and disaster prevention sectors with South Korea where we exchanged opinions to share and resolve issues faced by the two countries. The International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), which was founded in the Public Works Research Institute, has provided technical cooperation and international assistance to countries and regions vulnerable to water-related disasters through various efforts such as developing an integrated flood analysis system (IFAS) and rainfall-runoff-inundation (RRI) model, researching risk management, implementing human resource development programs, participating in UNESCO and Asian Development Bank projects, and acting as the secretariat of the International Flood Initiative (IFI).

In accordance with a letter exchanged between the EU's General Office on Disaster Prevention and the MLIT, working level talks were held for the purpose of enhancing disaster prevention measures in place in both Japan and the EU. In addition, in the sediment control sector, we have hosted bilateral conferences regarding sediment control technology with Italy, South Korea, Switzerland and Austria, and have implemented technical cooperation through the dispatch of JICA experts and other efforts for warnings and evacuation from landslide disasters, land-use regulations and the like in Brazil and Sri Lanka.

(5) Road Sector

Japan proactively participates in various technical committees and is spearheading the formulation of future policy of the World Road Association (PIARC). In addition, at the PIARC Annual Council Meeting held in Bonn, Germany in October 2017, we introduced two topics: Vehicle Infrastructure Integration Required for Autonomous Driving, and Autonomous Driving Services to Support Aging Societies. On the topic of Vehicle Infrastructure Integration Required for Autonomous Driving, we introduced concepts based on the creation of dynamic map data, which is the basis of autonomous driving, as well as efforts toward public-private joint research on providing information at merging areas of interchanges, which have proven to be a challenge for autonomous driving systems. On the topic of Autonomous Driving Services to Support Aging Societies, we touched on issues in hilly and mountainous areas of Japan and introduced efforts to test and verify low-speed autonomous driving services based at hubs such as Michi-no-ekis (roadside stations) as viable modes of transportation.

(6) Housing and Building Sector

Japan attended the world conference of the Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC), and made other efforts to exchange information with relevant countries concerning global trends in building codes and the like.

We hosted bilateral meetings with South Korea, Germany, and China at which we exchanged information about housing policy, energy-efficient construction, housing finance and other matters.

Broad technical cooperation was provided to Myanmar and Cambodia through the dispatching of JICA experts and other measures based on the memorandums between both countries.

(7) Automotive Sector

Based on the ASEAN-Japan New Cooperative Program on Comprehensive Vehicle Safety and Environment Measures Including Development of Technical Regulations and Establishment of a Type Approval System for Vehicles endorsed at the 13th ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting in 2015, in November 2017, we hosted a Public-Private Joint Forum for the Asian region, at which we exchanged information about activities for the global harmonization and mutual recognition in the Asia region. In addition, continuing from last year and based on the program, we implemented and exchanged pertinent information and opinions regarding a program in Malaysia to improve their automobile transportation safety and environmental conservation policy formulation process.

(8) Maritime Sector

In the maritime sector, in addition to responding to the IMO global agenda, Japan has also responded to the bilateral agenda through Director-General-level conferences. In FY 2017, Japan held its first Director-General-level conference with Denmark based on the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Maritime Sector, where the two countries shared information and exchanged views about the enforcement of international regulations, digitalization and other matters. In October 2017, Japan concluded the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the implementation of the joint hydrographic survey of the Strait of Malacca and the Singapore Strait with the countries on the straits. In addition, Japan hosted seminars targeting travel agencies and other local companies in Malaysia and the Philippines based on the ASEAN-Japan Cruise Promotion Strategy approved at the ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting.

Furthermore, in order to promote the development of Green Ship Strategy in ASEAN which was endorsed at the ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers' Meeting in 2016, Japan hosted the first meeting of "Expert Group on Green Ships (EGGS)" in Malaysia in September 2017.

(9) Ports Sector

The MLIT exchanges information about port and harbor administration, promotes cruise industry and engages in other activities at meetings such as the Northeast Asia Port Director-General Meeting and meetings of APEC Transportation Working Group. We also emphasize collaboration with the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) and the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)—the Japanese government is a member of both—and engage in exchange with key government officials from other countries and proactively participate in the activities of various research committees. We are particularly proactive in PIANC with efforts toward the overseas deployment and international standardization of Japanese technical standards.

Furthermore, in July 2017, three new entities including the Port of Vancouver signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on the Development of LNG as a Marine Fuel (signed by eight port authorities from seven countries in October 2016) to further strengthen the global network of LNG bunkering ports.

(10) Aviation Sector

In August 2017, the 54th Conference of Director-Generals of Asia-Pacific Civil Aviation was held in Mongolia. At the conference, we exchanged opinions about efforts by countries in the Asia-Pacific region toward aviation safety, aviation security, air traffic control and other general aviation matters.

In addition, in September 2017, the third meeting of the Japan-France Cooperative Working Group was held in Osaka in accordance with a memorandum of understanding concerning technical cooperation in the civil aviation sector that has been concluded with France, and it was decided to advance cooperation including regular meetings to be held in the future.

(11) Logistics Sector

Trilateral cooperation among Japan, China, and South Korea is being advanced in the logistics sector in accordance with an agreement reached at the sixth China-Japan-Korea Ministerial Conference on Transport and Logistics held in July 2016, such as by way of studies into the expansion of the mutual access of chassis, the expansion of covering ports in Japan, China, and South Korea that are subject to the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET), and the expansion of such ties to ASEAN countries and other partners.

Discussions on enhancing the logistics environment are also being carried out in the context of bilateral logistics policy dialogue under the framework of the ASEAN-Japan Transport Partnership; discussions were held with Indonesia in November 2017 and the Philippines in December 2017. In May 2017, students were provided with development training in Vietnam to help secure exceptional human resources in the ASEAN region.

(12) Geospatial Information Sector

The MLIT provides support to ASEAN member states and others for the introduction of the world geodetic system and the comprehensive operation of a network of GNSS-based control stations. In light of the cooperative agreement that resulted from the Japan-Thailand Summit Meeting held in February 2015, the MLIT concluded a memorandum of cooperation with the Thailand Ministry of Science and Technology in June 2017, held seminars to establish a network of GNSS-based control stations in December 2017, and continues to dispatch experts as it has since FY 2016. We are proactive in Myanmar, dispatching workers for JICA survey missions and making other efforts toward the Yangon Mapping Project, which aims to establish GNSS-based control stations and create topographic maps of the precincts of Yangon. Furthermore, with China and South Korea, we held cooperation conferences about surveying and mapping and exchanged information about surveying technology and projects.

(13) Meteorological and Earthquake/Tsunami Sector

Under the framework of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Japan has provided the world meteorological community with various information including tropical cyclone forecasts taking advantage of its advanced technologies as well as exchanged meteorological data and technical information. Also, under the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Japan has provided the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory to various countries in the region to contribute to tsunami disaster mitigation.

(14) Coast Guard Sector

Coordination and cooperation among coast guard organizations in various fields—including search and rescue as well as maritime security measures—are being actively promoted through partnership of the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (formed by six countries consisting of Japan, Canada, China, South Korea, Russia, and the United States), the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (20 Asian countries and one region), and bilateral top-level meetings, as well as joint exercises.

The Japan Coast Guard is also proactively participating in various international organizations by formulating standards concerning the production of nautical charts through committees of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), coordinating for the Northwest Pacific Ocean region through the Cospas-Sarsat Programme, conducting investigations into VDES^{Note} development through committees of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), and dispatching staff members from the Japan Coast Guard to the Information Sharing Center based on the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). In addition, international contributions are being made through different initiatives, such as those that help improve the capabilities of the coast guard sector in developing countries.

Furthermore, through such efforts as promoting interaction and fostering mutual understanding among coast guard organizations throughout Asia, and in order to create a common awareness of the importance of collaboration and cooperation between countries toward ensuring safety at sea and advancing the concept of “maritime order governed by law and rules and not by coercion”, we have accepted young senior officials from coast guard organizations throughout Asia into the Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program, a master’s degree program for maritime safety and security policy established in October 2015.

Note Short for VHF Data Exchange System

In addition, the successive establishment of new coast guard organizations throughout Asia and other changes in social circumstances in recent years have increased expectations of the Japan Coast Guard to provide support for capacity building to coast guard organizations of other nations. To dutifully respond to these expectations, in FY 2017, the Japan Coast Guard established the Japan Coast Guard Mobile Cooperation Team, which focuses exclusively on supporting international capacity building. On their first dispatch in November 2017 in the Philippines, the team used high speed small boats to conduct law enforcement training for coast guard organization members from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia. The team intends to continue providing support for capacity building in response to requests from the coast guard organizations of various countries.

Column

Hosting the Coast Guard Global Summit

Coast guard organizations are maritime safety institutions that strive to ensure safety on the sea through rescue operations at sea, disaster response, marine environmental conservation and maintaining public order at sea based on the rule of law under international maritime law so that people all over the world can safely use and enjoy the various benefits of the ocean.

Given that global-scale changes to the natural and social environment have multiplied the various damage and threats to the ocean in recent years, the Japan Coast Guard and the Nippon Foundation co-hosted the world's first Coast Guard Global Summit on September 12-14, 2017 in an effort to establish interregional cooperative relations that build on and surpass the existing frameworks created by coast guard organizations of the world through bilateral—and in some regions, multilateral—cooperation. The summit drew over 250 participants, roughly 160 of which came from outside Japan—including executive-level officials from coast guard organizations in 34 countries and one region in Asia, Oceania, the Americas, Europe and Africa, and secretary-generals from three international organizations—in addition to observers from relevant Japanese ministries and agencies, and embassies in Tokyo.

In recognition of the global expansion of the roles of coast guard organizations, summit participants expressed their support for strengthened collaboration and expanded dialogues, and specifically for considering the ideal state of human resources while sharing leading case examples and experiences in various fields and deepening understanding of a common set of behavioral ideals among coast guard organizations. As for comments from participants from other countries, the United States Coast Guard commented on the need to use this summit to strengthen partnerships in order to deal with issues.

We hope that coast guard organizations spread the concepts championed at the summit throughout the world and commit them into action, and in so doing contribute to the peace of mind and safety of people

Coast Guard Global Summit



Source) MLIT

Farewell reception



Source) MLIT

around the world developing along with the ocean.

We plan to hold working level meetings in the future in order to discuss the purpose of the summit, management rules and meeting logistics, etc.

Welcome reception at the State Guest House



Source) MLIT

Section 3 Initiatives Towards International Standardization

(1) Efforts for International Standardization

To promote high safety and environmental performance automobiles early and cost efficiently, Japan is actively participating in activities of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) to promote the international harmonization of safety and environmental regulations, and is also promoting the international spread of Japanese automobiles with superior safety, and environmental features, and new technology through participation in these activities. In order to promote such activities, the “Action Plan for the Internationalization of the Regulation and Certification System” with its four pillars of: 1) Strategic international standardization of Japanese technology and regulations, 2) Realization of international whole vehicle type approval system (IWVTA), 3) Promoting participation of Asian countries in international harmonization of regulations, and 4) Establishing a framework to handle globalization of regulations and certification, is being steadily realized to promote the internationalization of automobile regulation and certification systems.

(2) International Standardization and Other Initiatives in the Railway Sector

As Europe actively promotes the international standardization of European standards, the possibility of significant obstacles arising in the overseas expansion of railway systems is increased if Japan’s superior technology is excluded from the scope of international standards. Because this will affect global competitiveness in the railway sector, it is important to actively promote international standards in railway technology. For this reason, the Railway Technical Research Institute’s Railway International Standards Center, which is the centralized organization that handles railway-related international standards, works proactively to further advance railway safety and the expansion of the railway industry.

As a result, Japan has played a central role in contributing to the proposals of individual standards and committee activities in the Technical Committee for Railway Applications (TC269) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and secured successful results. As Japan’s presence in various international conferences, including those organized by ISO/TC269 and the Technical Committee for Electrical equipment and systems for railways (TC9) of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), rises, works on promoting international standardization with respect to railway technology. The National Traffic Safety and Environment Laboratory of the National Agency for Automobile and Land Transport Technology (Independent Administrative Institution), the first domestic certification body of international standards in the railway sector, has acquired solid certification experience following the establishment of the Railways Certification Office, and contributes to the overseas expansion of Japan’s railway systems.

(3) International Standards Regarding Ships and Mariners

In order to aim to mitigate the environmental impact and increase the safety of shipping and help disseminate superior Japanese energy-saving technologies, Japan has spearheaded discussions in the context of the formulation of standards under the SOLAS Convention^{Note 1}, MARPOL Treaty^{Note 2}, and STCW Convention^{Note 3}, all of which have been adopted under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Moreover, the Japan Coast Guard has participated in discussions on international standards applicable to nautical charts, nautical publications, and navigational warnings as hosted by a working group operating under the auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). In order to ensure the safety of vessel traffic and increase the operating efficiency of vessels, we are leading the discussion in the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) e-Navigation Committee regarding the international standardization of VDES, a new maritime data communication system.

(4) International Harmonization of Standards and Certification Systems in the Civil Engineering and Building Sectors

In the civil engineering, building, and housing sectors, we are working to promote the international harmonization of standards and certification systems by operating programs for certifying imported building materials in terms of perfor-

Note 1 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

Note 2 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

Note 3 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.

mance and for approving rating agencies, obtaining technical cooperation from organizations like JICA, and participating in the establishment of ISO standards for design and construction technology. Likewise, as part of the efforts to incorporate Japan's accumulated technology in international standards, discussions are in progress to develop and revise domestic technical standards by taking into account trends in the creation of international standards.

(5) International Standardization of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

In order to promote the development of efficient applications, international contributions, and the development of related industries in Japan, the international standardization of ITS technology is progressing within international standardization bodies, including ISO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In particular, we are participating in the Technical Committee on International Standardization of the ITS (ISO/TC204) and have been engaged in standardization activities concerning the use of probe data gathered with the ETC2.0 service. Japan has spearheaded the formulation of international regulations governing automatic driving, such as by co-chairing the Intelligent Transport Systems and Automobile Driving Informal Working Group and Automatically Commanded Steering Function Informal Working Group, which were established under the United Nations' World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP29) and proposing regulations for automatic steering to enable automatic driving on expressways.

(6) Standardization of Geographic Information

For the purpose of ensuring compatibility for the interoperability between different Geographic Information Systems (GIS) dealing with geospatial information, Japan is actively participating in the formulation of international standards by the ISO Technical Committee for Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC211). Likewise, we are working on standardizing domestic geographic information.

(7) Mutual Recognition of International Technical Qualifications

Within the APEC Architect Project and the APEC Engineer Project, we have conferred mutual designations on people qualified to produce architectural designs and qualified engineers within APEC who have satisfied certain requirements. Within the APEC Architect Project, we are promoting the mobility of persons qualified to produce architectural designs through our signing of bilateral memorandums of understanding for mutual acceptance with Australia and New Zealand, and efforts such as our participation in the APEC Architect Central Council.

(8) Sewage Sector

Presently, our proactive and leading participation in the Technical Committee on the Water-reuse (ISO/TC282), Technical Committee on Sludge Recovery, Recycling, Treatment, and Disposal (ISO/TC275), and Working Group on Stormwater Management (ISO/TC224/WG11) represents efforts to promote the deployment of high-quality Japanese sewage technology overseas.

(9) Promotion of the International Standardization of Logistics Systems

We are promoting the standardization and international standardization of Japanese logistics systems, thereby contributing to improved logistics environments in Asian distribution networks and strengthening the international competitiveness of Japanese logistics companies, based on the services and know-how those companies have, which is of the world's highest level, including cold chain and delivery services.