

Country Assistance Policy for the Republic of Turkey

September 2018

1. Aim of the Development Assistance

Situated at the crossroads between Asia, Middle East and Europe, Turkey has a significant geopolitical importance in terms of having potential for becoming a hub country among the neighboring countries in the fields of energy and transportation. Turkey is one of the outstanding countries of its region, holding the key to the peace, stability and welfare of the region. Besides, with achieving a remarkable economic growth, Turkey is expected to increase its economic growth with its young population. Therefore, the country is attracting the more attention of the Japanese companies more and more. Turkey is drawing great interest as a production base not only for Turkish domestic market but also for the markets of EU and neighboring countries.

On the other hand, in despite of achieving a remarkable economic growth, Turkey currently has the subjects on its agenda such as the improvement of city life by the services including urban transportation, drinking water, sewerage system and waste treatment along with energy, medical infrastructure and regional disparities. Apart from that, the country, that has problems such as high unemployment rate, especially among its young population, and high inflation rate and addressing these problems by means of structural economic reforms towards the sustainable economic growth is one of the issues. Furthermore, following the worsening situation of Syria, Turkey is currently the largest host country for Syrian refugees and lessening the financial and social burden of the host local governments is regarded as an urgent issue for the country. Moreover, being an earthquake prone country, Turkey continues its efforts to strengthen its disaster prevention policies. In addition, Turkey deals with the issues such as human resources development in the science and technology field, protection of cultural assets as tourist attractions, adding of value to the economy aimed at further development, as well as improvement of international competitive capacity. Besides, taking into consideration the terror threats stemming from the terrorist organizations like ISIL, security policies is another important issue for the country.

Japan's development assistance for Turkey helped to create a positive image about Japan in Turkey and contributed in the establishment of good relations

between the two countries so far. Within the scope of the development assistance method towards Turkey from now on, supports aimed at the solutions of the problems which Turkey deals with in the fields, that were stated as important issues in the Development Plan of the country as well, such as human resources development, strengthening of the society as well as sustainable economic growth, will be provided by utilizing the strengths of Japan. Within this direction, encouragement of cooperation relations in the fields, which serve to mutual benefits of the two countries, is a highly important issue. Furthermore, implementation of joint activities in the field of assistance for third countries, in which Turkey has tried to strengthen its supports, like in African countries etc., and establishment of a global cooperation partnership has a great importance.

2. Basic Assistance Policies (Primary Objectives): Deepening the Strategic Partnership through the Supports aimed at Sustainable Economic Growth

The global partnership cooperation using the strengths of the two countries in the field of assistance in third countries will be reinforced with the improvement of the supports at the level of both the government and private sector with the aim of solving the problems regarding human resources development, strengthening of society as well as sustainable economic growth which are determined as essential fields by Turkey. By means of abovementioned activities, the strategic partnership relations (2013 Joint Declaration) based on the concrete mutual benefits will be deepened further via reinforcement of development assistance.

3. Important Points (Secondary Objectives)

(1) Supporting the Development of Strong Urban Infrastructure Assisting Economy

Supports will be provided in the fields that Turkey facing with problems such as improvement of city conditions, advancement of science and technology, human resources development for industrial sector, elimination of regional disparities, disaster prevention and disaster policies; in an attempt to make a stronger infrastructure assisting Turkey that achieved a remarkable economic development.

(2) Strengthening Cooperation with Private Sector

Taking into account that Turkey is a country that achieved a remarkable

economic growth, it will be assisted in the fields where the companies, human resources and technologies of Japan can be utilized with the aim of the promotion of the solutions regarding Turkey's development issues as well as the mutual benefits of Japan and Turkey.

(3) Strengthening Cooperation with Development Partner

In light of Turkey's increasing commercial and economic activities in neighboring regions such as Middle East, Africa, Central Asia etc., in addition to its improving assistance activities, Japan would like to strengthen its partnership with Turkey in cooperating towards the stability and development of such regions. Paying attention to the Memorandum of Understanding signed (in January 2012) by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), if necessary Japan supports Turkey as a donor country as well as where appropriate reviews the potential of cooperation in assistance activities in third countries under proper circumstances.

(4) Supports towards Syrian Refugee Policies

Considering that Turkey is currently the largest host country for Syrian refugees in the world receiving 3.5 million Syrians currently, Japan is planning to provide supports which contribute in both refugees and host community with the aim of making concrete the statement regarding the assistance towards the stabilization in the Middle East made by Japan during 2016 G7 Summit in Ise-shima as well as the statement on "Cooperation of Humanitarian Assistance and Development Assistance" at UN Summit for Refugees and Immigrants.

4. Notes¹

We target the promotion of cooperation relations between the private sectors of Japan and Turkey on the purpose of strengthening further the mutually beneficial cooperation relations of the two countries even following the graduation of Turkey from the Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries category with a relatively high income.

ANNEX : Country Assistance Policies

¹ Data on distribution of past Official Development Assistance by countries (Turkey 2009) can be accessed from the following link:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/shiryo/hyouka/kunibetu/gai/turkey/kn08_01_index.html