

Section 2. International Contribution through Human Resource Development

1. Technical Cooperation in the Fields of Health, Labour and Welfare

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is contributing to the development of human resources and systems in developing nations through technical cooperation that includes conducting workshops, dispatching experts, and accepting trainees in the fields of health and medical care, water services, social welfare, employment environment improvement, and vocational ability development, and utilizing the knowledge and experience of Japan via international organizations such as WHO and ILO in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

2. Major International Cooperation Programs of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

(1) Technical Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medical Care through WHO

With regard to measures against SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and new/re-emerging infectious diseases such as avian/pandemic influenza, efforts are being made to enhance the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) led by WHO through dispatching experts and technical cooperation, mainly at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases and the International Medical Center of Japan.

Financial aid of approximately 3 million dollars through WHO was decided upon for use against avian/pandemic influenza. In addition, efforts are being cooperatively made in regions of Asia that include dispatching experts, technical cooperation in inspections/diagnoses, and providing medical devices.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is cooperating with UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in responding to the increase in infectious diseases such as AIDS.

(2) Technical Cooperation in the Field of Labour through ILO

In the field of labour, voluntary contributions have been made to ILO, which possesses accumulated knowledge, experiences and wide range of capable specialists, to implement technical cooperation programmes (multi-bilateral programs) in specific countries or regions. Currently, a programme on securing worker's health has been implemented in collaboration with WHO and ILO. Other projects such as securing employment for youth, appropriate management of workers crossing international borders, and training program of Japanese technical officers have been in

progress.

In addition, ASEAN Industrial Relations project had been supporting the establishment of sound industrial relations in ASEAN for six years, upon requests from ASEAN countries., From year 2008, this project has been implemented as a technical cooperation project with ILO multi-bilateral scheme.

(3) ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies

The ASEAN and Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies has been held since FY 2003 by inviting high level officials in charge of social security and health/medical care policies from 10 ASEAN countries and with the aim of improving human resource development in the field of social security and health/medical care as well as improving cooperative relationships with Japan. The 5th meeting was held in Tokyo in August 2007 to share information/experience, mainly on services for the elderly in communities, with the topics being cooperation between social security, health, and medical care services and human resource/community development.

The 6th meeting is scheduled to be held in Tokyo in September 2008.

The meeting has been conducted as a cooperative program with the ASEAN+3 Health Ministers Meeting, Labour Ministers Meeting and Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development.

(4) ASEAN/Japan HIV/AIDS Workshop

In order to promote measures against HIV/AIDS in ASEAN regions, workshops have been held with officials in charge of addressing HIV/AIDS and the medical staff of referral hospitals from ASEAN countries invited since 2003. In February 2007, a workshop was held over 5 days and included field inspections of HIV/AIDS measures in Phnom Penh, Democratic Kampuchea.

(5) Training Program of Leaders in Labour Administration

The Ministry is contributing to voluntary development in the field of labour in Asian countries through inviting administrators, leaders in labour administrations, or candidate middle-management executives from Asian countries, including China, to provide training on situations seen in the industry/labour and management systems of enterprises in Japan and exchange opinions on facilitating the enhancement of human resource/labour management abilities, labour-management relationships, and abilities to establish/improve working environments.