

## **Proposal for ODA of Japan**

**“Forum of Experts Calling for ODA Expansion”  
Represented by Yasushi Akashi  
President, JOICFP and the Council on Population Education**

### **Toward Strengthening International Cooperation from a Different Approach**

The G8 Summit held in Heiligendamm, Germany, in early June 2007 discussed global warming, one of the most important issues of today, and agreed to “seriously consider the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2050.” We highly appreciate that the leaders of G8 nations have reached an agreement as a result of tireless efforts by Japan and concerned countries in defiance of complicated national interests of different countries in this issue. However, the agreement was not able to agree to clear targets, and unfortunately, it was not approved by emerging superpowers such as China and India. Eventually, the formulation of a global framework for global warming following the Kyoto Protocol was left with the G8 Summit meeting at Lake Toya, Hokkaido, Japan, to be held in July 2008.

Being concerned about the role of Japan in the international community, and with a wish for world peace, we have been addressing environmental and population issues through NGO activities, and advocacy and educational activities. As a part of our activities, we established the “ODA Study Meeting” early this year and have discussed future international cooperation of Japan five times, inviting specialists as resource persons.

In the face of a global crisis caused by global warming and the population explosion in developing regions, we have reached a shared understanding that in order to occupy an honored place in international society, Japan should strengthen its ODA and other cooperation assistance programs, and take active diplomatic initiatives toward poverty reduction in Africa and other regions, the focal point of cooperation in international assistance today.

We realize that in order to make international cooperation truly effective, it is urgently needed that ODA should be widely supported by the public. For this purpose, it is essential that a system should be established to promote international cooperation in which local governments, business corporations, universities, NGOs, and civil society organizations participate, in addition to the current top-down approach by the government and its relevant agencies. We have concluded that education on international understanding is important in order to help people be more interested in the international community, and leading roles by parliamentary members and the media are indispensable in this field.

We consider the G8 Summit at Lake Toya, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) IV and the JICA-JBIC integration as good opportunities to strengthen international cooperation, and present this proposal with our intention to play due roles as members of the all-Japan team.

We solicit all cabinet ministers, parliamentary members and the media for the active realization of the following proposals.

#### **Proposal 1:**

International cooperation to realize the theme of the “Earth and Humans Living Together in Harmony”

Explain the necessity of ODA for Japan as a nation that has renounced the use of force as a means of settling international disputes, and as a nation with little natural resources and being dependent on international trade. Further, designate the theme of the “Earth and humans living together in harmony” as Japan’s policy for international cooperation with three major pillars of: the environment, world population issues, and peace building, and put forward “Japan Brand Cooperation Programs” taking advantage of Japanese experience in these fields.

**Proposal 2:**

Review the ODA reduction policy implemented in the past 8 years and increase ODA in FY2008 in order for Japan to take greater responsibility in world peace and stability.

**Proposal 3:**

Achieve the internationally agreed target of 0.7 percent of GNP to be allocated to ODA at the earliest possible time. At the occasion of the Lake Toya Summit in 2008, Japan should indicate the time to achieve the goal, following the models of other industrialized countries.

**Proposal 4:**

Pay greater attention to the plight of poverty and HIV/AIDS prevalence in Africa from the human security point of view, and increase ODA allocation to help facilitate the solution to these issues. In extending cooperation to Africa, the greatest consideration should be given to women's human rights.

**Proposal 5:**

Promote education on international understanding in schools in order to realize "international cooperation supported by the nation." Parliamentary members and the media have a special responsibility to forge public opinion on international cooperation.

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