

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

(Background)

- The MDGs are the 8 development goals set by the United Nations in 2001. The goals serve as guiding principles for development policy today.
- Some progress has been made in the past 10 years. However, further efforts are necessary particularly in the health and education related goals to achieve the goals by 2015.

(Efforts made so far)

- Japan attaches importance to the MDGs as the common goals of the international community.
 - guiding concept: human security
- Japan has actively contributed to the achievement of the MDGs by steadily implementing the commitments made on such occasions as G8 Summits and the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) (May 2008, Yokohama, Japan).
- At the G8 Muskoka summit on June 25-26, 2010, Japan announced that it additionally provides, in accordance with the Muskoka Initiative, up to 50 billion Japanese yen, approximately 500 million US dollars, in five years from 2011 in the field of maternal and child health.

(Way Forward)

1. Japan continues to consider the MDGs to be an important set of goals that the international community should work together to achieve.
 - “We will make all-out efforts for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals”
(policy speech by Prime Minister Kan on June 11, 2010)
2. Japan will contribute to international discussions by sharing its visions and approaches toward the UN MDGs Summit (September 20-22, 2010, New York).
 - Visions: highlighting human security and economic growth
 - Approaches: participatory approach involving all stakeholders, improvement of self-help capacity
3. Japan will strengthen its efforts in the field of health and education goals where the progress is far behind compared to other sectors.