

“WHAT’S NEW” from the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg

Countries attending a UN conference in New York on rebuilding Haiti following the devastating earthquake in January, have pledged almost \$10 billion in assistance on Wednesday March 31, 2010. Luxembourg has already responded to this disaster, extending emergency assistance through international organizations and NGOs.

Mr. Katsuya Okada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan announced at the meeting that Japan will contribute 30 million dollars in addition to the 70 million dollars already announced. Japan is also deploying its Self-Defense Forces to serve in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

(<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/latin/haiti/disaster2010/index.html>)

Natural disasters such as earthquake, typhoons and tsunamis constitute one of the greatest threats facing the people on the Earth. It really matters to Japan, especially for the Prime Minister Yukio HATOYAMA, to protect lives, as it was a leitmotiv in his Policy Speech before the Diet in Japan on January 29, 2010.

([http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/hatoyama/statement/201001/29siseihousin\\_e.html](http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/hatoyama/statement/201001/29siseihousin_e.html))

In fact, over the last ten years, Japan has been taking various initiatives in promoting the concept of human security. Human security is a belief that a human being, irrespective of where he or she is born, is entitled to live a healthy, dignified life, and that he or she should be allowed to develop his or her ability to the maximum extent possible. It should be a concern not only of states, but also of the international community as a whole.

([http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human\\_secu/](http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human_secu/))

Prevention, quick responses and cooperation- these are the keys to protecting people’s lives from natural disasters and infectious diseases. That’s why Japan intends to make every effort to achieve concrete results for actions regarding human security in various fields, such as disaster preparedness, public health, and food security in the framework of “APEC Japan 2010”, which is scheduled to be held in November this year in Yokohama.

(<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/apec/2010/index.html>)

Officials of Japan and the EU are now talking about how to replace the current Action Plan for the EU-Japan Cooperation, which will expire in 2011. Japan and the EU can also cooperate further to cope with these global challenges.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email to [toshiharu.tarui@mofa.go.jp](mailto:toshiharu.tarui@mofa.go.jp) or call 46 41 51 34, the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg.