



History of the International Cooperation of Japan and Common Agenda of Costa Rica and Japan in the International Context

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6 August 2015

At Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

Backgrounds of International Cooperation of Japan

Devastating Effects of World War II



Tokyo in March 1945



Hiroshima in August 1945

In Japan:

- About 3,100,000 deaths; a countless number of people injured
- GDP: 201,766 million USD in 1940 to 98,711 million USD in 1945
- World-wide: tens million deaths and casualties

Backgrounds of International Cooperation of Japan

Fundamental Values of the Japanese

- Democracy
- Pacifism
- Constitutionalism and Rule of the Law
- Respect for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom
- Multilateralism (Respect for the United Nations)
- Environment Protection

Desire and aspiration to occupy an honored place in an international society

History of International Cooperation of Japan

Era of Post-War and Cold War (1945 – 1991)

- 1946-1952: US Assistance worth about 1.8 billion USD through GARIOA and EROA Fund
- 1951: Treaty of Peace with Japan
- 1953-1965: World Bank Loans to Japan (Total: 860 million USD). Repayment Done in 1990.
- 1958: Loan Aid by Japan Started (to India)
- 1964: OTCA (Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency) of Japan Established
- 1965: JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) Started Its Activities
- 1969: Grant Aid by Japan Started

History of International Cooperation of Japan

Era of Post Cold War (1991 – present)

Higher Expectation to Play A More Active Role

- More Independent Decision-Making
- More Responsibility

Diversification of International Cooperation:

- Economic Cooperation;
- Peace Building (PKO since 1993);
- Environment (UNCED in 1992 and COP3 in Kyoto in 1997);
- Arms Control (Nuclear Disarmament Resolution since 1994);
- Human Rights (Mainstreaming of Human Rights since 2006);
- Human Security (since 1998), etc.

Common Agenda of Costa Rica and Japan in International Context

Costa Rica and Japan Share Fundamental Values

Basic Principle: To work together to realize a better world based on equal partnership.

- Agenda:
- Environment;
 - Arms Control;
 - Human Rights;
 - Human Security;
 - United Nations System;
 - Economic Cooperation, etc.

Environment

How can we cope with the climate change?

International Framework

- 21st Conference of Parties to UNFCCC (COP21);
- Other Environment-related Conventions, e.g. Vienna Convention for Protection of Ozone Layer.

Concrete Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

- Cooperation for Carbon Neutral by 2021;
- Research & Development on Energy Technology;
- Joint Credit Mechanism for Low Carbon Growth;
- Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Arms Control

How can we make the world safer?

Costa Rica and Japan share the aim of realizing a world free of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)



Since no achievements were made at NPT Review Conference in 2015, there is need for a fresh start.

Both Costa Rica and Japan seek to control and/or restrict conventional weapons.



The two countries often work together in this area, e.g. ATT and CCM.

Human Rights

How can we enhance the system to protect human rights?

Costa Rica and Japan are parties to core international human rights treaties.



To work together for universalizing these treaties and contributing to their implementation.

Costa Rica and Japan are interested in further enhancing human rights.



To work together to improve human rights situations in the world are improved [Reporting & Peer Pressure], and introduce new treaties, as necessary.

Human Security

How can we make the lives of vulnerable people better?

The situation surrounding vulnerable people on the ground is often too complex and deteriorates too rapidly.



Need for New Approach based on New Philosophy

Concept of Human Security includes the right to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair.

Human Security calls for people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented approaches.

- UN Trust Fund for Human Security (Created in 1999)
- Advisory Board on Human Security (established in 2003)

United Nations System

How can we improve the working of the United Nations and other International Organizations?

Multilateralism is important in tackling the issue relating to Peace and Stability and global issues such as Environment, Arms Control, Human Rights and Refugees.

As Costa Rica and Japan shared fundamental values, there are opportunities of working together, to ensure the effective working of the United Nations.

- Building Common Agenda
- Consultations and Cooperation in Discussions
- Reforms of the United Nations and Others

Economic Cooperation

Costa Rican Economy has developed significantly, but

There is still a room for economic cooperation with Japan.

- Trilateral Cooperation in which Costa Rica would work with Japan in providing support for other Central American or Latin American countries, using its experiences and knowledge.
- Bilateral cooperation which would benefit the world (e.g. Environment Protection), Japan (e.g. Improvement of Business Climate), or which has symbolic importance for their friendship (e.g. emergency assistance).

Business (Investment and Trade)

Japan set a target of FTAs' covering 70% of overall trade by 2018. (It is now about 22%.)



Therefore, it now focuses its efforts on TPP, FTA with EU, and China-Japan-Korea Trilateral FTA.

Japan is interested in the Pacific Alliance while Costa Rica approaches it



FTA between Costa Rica and Japan might be considered in the context of the Pacific Alliance in the future.

Science and Technology

SATREPS: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development

This is a joint program of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and JICA. JICA provides support for research groups abroad.



APRSAF: Asian-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum



This is a forum initiated by Japan Space Exploration Agency (JAXA) to enhance space activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Space agencies, related governmental bodies, international organizations, etc. participate in APRSAF.

Thank You for Your Attention

Note: The view expressed in this presentation is personal, and does not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Government of Japan

Appendix

Preamble of the Constitution of Japan

We, the Japanese people, acting through our duly elected representatives in the National Diet, determined that we shall secure for ourselves and our posterity the fruits of peaceful cooperation with all nations and the blessings of liberty throughout this land, and resolved that never again shall we be visited with the horrors of war through the action of government, do proclaim that sovereign power resides with the people and do firmly establish this Constitution.

Preamble of the Constitution of Japan

Government is a sacred trust of the people, the authority for which is derived from the people, the powers of which are exercised by the representatives of the people, and the benefits of which are enjoyed by the people. This is a universal principle of mankind upon which this Constitution is founded. We reject and revoke all constitutions, laws, ordinances, and rescripts in conflict herewith.

Preamble of the Constitution of Japan

We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationship, and we have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world. We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace, and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance for all time from the earth. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.

Preamble of the Constitution of Japan

We believe that no nation is responsible to itself alone, but that laws of political morality are universal; and that obedience to such laws is incumbent upon all nations who would sustain their own sovereignty and justify their sovereign relationship with other nations.

We, the Japanese people, pledge our national honor to accomplish these high ideals and purposes with all our resources.

- From the web-page of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan
- Underlined by the author of this presentation