

Topic IV: Developing International Cooperation with a focus on Asia

Working in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japanese police are making full use of their knowledge and attributes to provide cooperative support for overseas police forces by dispatching experts and accepting trainees to transfer knowledge and technical skills.

Supporting the improvement of the abilities of foreign law enforcement agencies in handling crime is not only effective in terms of improving public safety in the recipient nation, but it also prevents the nation from becoming a hotbed for international crime and contributes to the public safety measures of related countries including Japan. In addition, while favorable relations with the law enforcement agencies of recipient nations can be established through such support, promotion of further cooperation for international crime countermeasures can also be anticipated.

(1) Transfer of Knowledge and Technical Skills

The NPA has dispatched experts to Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey and other countries with the aim of transferring knowledge and technical skills related to the Koban (police box) system, criminal identification and other fields. In 2012, 18 additional experts were sent, bringing the total number of dispatched officers, including those on continuous assignments, to 29.

1) Support Program for Reform of the Indonesian National Police

With the implementation of the Support Program for Reform of the Indonesian National Police, the NPA has sent personnel to Indonesia since 2001 to act as Policy Advisor to the Chief of Indonesian National Police and as Program Manager, responsible for the overall program. In 2012, the Project on Enhancement of Civilian Police Activities, the core project of the program running since 2002, was completed. As a follow-up project, the Project on Nationwide Capacity Development of Police Officers for POLMAS - Indonesian Civilian Police Activities was initiated. While using the Metropolitan Bekasi Police Resort and the Bekasi Police Resort just outside Jakarta as model police stations, this project aims to establish the results from the support provided to date relating to fields such as the Koban system, criminal identification, the communications and command systems, and spread them nationwide.



Koban operation instruction in Indonesia

2) Philippine National Police Anti-crime Capability Enhancement Program

Since 2008, the NPA has carried out the Anti-Crime Capability Enhancement Program for the Philippine National Police in which personnel has been dispatched to serve as Advisor to the Chief of Philippine National Police and as Program Manager.

In addition, the NPA also cooperates in the enhancement of anti-crime capabilities by providing support for investigation systems and criminal identification through the dispatch of experts and other measures.



Guidance for criminal identification skills in the Philippines

3) Project for Strengthening Traffic Police Training in Vietnam

Since 2010, the NPA has carried out a project to strengthen traffic police training for the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam, by sending experts and accepting trainees to support the enhancement of traffic instructor capabilities at the People's Police Academy of the Ministry of Public Security of Vietnam.

4) Support for the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL)

Following a request from the government of Timor-Leste, the NPA sent experts between November and December 2011 to provide advice and guidance concerning the promotion of community policing. Japan and Indonesia have provided training for senior officers of the PNTL since 2010.

5) Support for the Training of Afghan Police Officers in Turkey

To improve public safety in Afghanistan, the Turkish police conduct police training programs necessary to enhance the abilities of Afghan police. In response to a request from the government of Turkey, Japan has sent police officers to Turkey to provide instruction in judo for Afghan police officers since 2011 and to instill the required discipline and professional ethics required of police officers. In addition, the Japanese police have invited senior officers of the Turkish police to Japan every year since 2010 strengthening cooperative ties.



Community policing guidance in East Timor



Judo instruction for Afghan police officers participating in training programs in Turkey

6) Acceptance of Trainees

With the aim of promoting the transfer of knowledge and technical skills and information

exchange with various nations, the police have a structure to receive trainees and carry out programs such as site visits to prefectural police and seminars at the Research and Training Center for International Criminal Investigation and Police Cooperation at the National Police Academy. In 2012, 15 courses were held with 134 trainees. Other than trainees, police welcome visitors from foreign law enforcement agencies and other organizations and introduce them to the policing approaches of Japan, with visits to facilities such as Koban and Communications and Command Centers. In 2012, the Japanese police welcomed 786 visitors, mainly from Asian nations.



A visit to a Koban

(2) International Disaster Relief Activities

When Japan receives a request from a stricken nation's government or international organization following a large-scale disaster overseas, the Japan Disaster Relief Team is dispatched, and as a member of this team, the police also take on international disaster relief activities.

Since the enactment of the "Law Concerning Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief Team" in 1987, police have sent 242 officers to 13 countries/regions to conduct search and rescue and other duties for the victims.

When the earthquake struck near Christchurch on the South Island of New Zealand in February 2011, 38 police personnel were dispatched as members of the Japan Disaster Relief team for search and rescue and other tasks and 5 other police personnel were dispatched as members of an expert team to undertake disaster victim identification (DVI) tasks.



Japan Disaster Relief Team conducting search activities in New Zealand