

Cours Science Technique Société
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Politique Technologique : le cas du Japon

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"Japan's International Relations"

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Japan's International Relations

I. What are the major threats the international community faces in the 21st century?

- A. war between States
- B. violence within States, including civil wars, large-scale human rights abuses, and genocide
- C. poverty, infectious disease, and environmental degradation (natural disasters)
- D. nuclear, radiological, chemical, and biological weapons (WMDs)
- E. terrorism
- F. transnational organized crime

II. What does the UN do?

- A. through Security Council, establishes multinational military forces under its authority for:
 - 1. peace keeping operations (monitoring cease fires)
 - a) e.g. Ethiopia-Eritrea, Golan Heights
 - 2. democratic governance and reconstruction
 - a) e.g. Timor-Leste and others
- B. serves as fora for governments and NGOs to tackle these challenges through:
 - 1. assembling for debate
 - 2. establishing global rules on issues such as
 - a) development
 - b) human rights
 - c) gender
 - d) children
 - e) infectious diseases
 - f) environment
 - g) transnational organized crime
 - h) refugees
 - i) culture
- C. in context of poverty, infectious disease, environmental degradation, and natural disasters, one outcome of UN debate is Millennium Development Goals:
 - 1. eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
 - 2. achieve universal primary education
 - 3. promote gender equality and empower women
 - 4. reduce child mortality
 - 5. improve maternal health
 - 6. combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
 - 7. ensure environmental sustainability
 - 8. develop a global partnership for development

III. What is Japan's role in tackling poverty, infectious disease, environmental degradation, and natural disasters?

A. Official Development Assistance (ODA)

1. objectives
 - a) contribute to peace and development of the international community, thereby ensuring Japan's own security and prosperity
2. basic policies
 - a) supporting self-help efforts of developing countries
 - b) perspective of "human security" (more on this later)
 - c) assurance of fairness (environmental and social impact, perspective of gender equality, etc.)
 - d) utilization of Japan's experience and expertise
 - e) partnership and collaboration with international community
3. priority issues
 - a) poverty reduction
 - (1) (MDGs)
 - (2) education
 - (3) health care and welfare
 - (4) water and sanitation
 - (a) 3rd World Water Forum
 - b) sustainable development
 - c) addressing global issues
 - d) peace-building
 - (1) demining
4. priority regions
 - a) Asia, which impacts Japan most
 - b) other regions depending on bilateral relationship in accordance with
 - (1) pursue tandem environmental conservation and development
 - (2) avoid use of ODA for military purposes or for aggravation of international conflicts
 - (3) pay adequate attention to trends in military expenditure and WMD
 - (4) pay adequate attention to efforts toward democratization and introduction of market-oriented economy, and situation regarding protection of basic human rights and freedoms (i.e. good governance)
5. examples
 - a) TICAD process
 - b) Mekong region development

B. repatriation of IDPs and refugees

1. support UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP, ICRC, UNICEF
2. hosted International Symposium on Refugees in Africa
3. examples: Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea
 - a) in Afghanistan, Regional Comprehensive Development Assistance Program (Ogata Initiative) – Aug.2002

C. disaster prevention

1. disaster prevention based on a long-term perspective
2. emergency assistance responding to requests from damaged countries and international organizations
3. reconstruction projects to assist the self-help efforts of stricken countries
4. WCDR
 - a) disaster portfolios and information sharing
 - b) pan-Indian Ocean tsunami warning system
5. examples: Iran, Pacific tsunami early warning system

IV. Human Security

A. definition: A concept of integrating and reinforcing a human-centred perspective with a view to protecting human beings from extensive and serious threats to their survival, livelihood, and dignity, and thereby materializing their full potential.

1. “protection” – norms, policies, and institutions essential to shield people, such as rule of law and democratic governance: “top down approach”
2. “empowerment” – role of individual as actor and participant in their own security: “bottom-up approach”
3. compliment to State Security
 - a) focuses on individual and the community, rather than the State
 - b) menaces to people’s security include threats and conditions that have not always been classified as threats to State security
 - (1) environmental pollution
 - (2) transnational terrorism
 - (3) massive population movements
 - (4) infectious diseases
 - (5) long-term oppression and deprivation
 - c) range of actors is expanded beyond State alone
 - (1) regional and international organizations
 - (2) NGOs
 - (3) civil society
 - d) achieving Human Security includes not just protecting people but also empowering people to fend for themselves.

B. recommendations of Commission on Human Security

1. protect people in violent conflict
2. protect people from proliferation of arms
3. support security of people on the move
4. establish human security transition funds for post-conflict situations
5. encourage fair trade and markets to benefit the extreme poor
6. work to provide minimum living standards everywhere
7. accord high priority to ensuring universal access to basic health care
8. develop an efficient and equitable global system for patent rights
9. empower all people with universal basic education

10. clarify the need for a global human identity while respecting the freedom of individuals to have diverse identities and affiliations

C. Trust Fund for Human Security

1. translates the concept of human security into concrete activities by supporting projects implemented by international organizations that address the above-mentioned threats from the perspective of human security.
2. individuals afflicted with threats to lives, livelihood, and dignity must benefit directly from projects
 - a) poverty
 - (1) community reconstruction
 - (2) vocational training
 - (3) food production
 - (4) protection of children
 - b) medical and health care
 - (1) reproductive health
 - (2) control of infectious diseases
 - (3) improvement of public health
 - c) refugees / IDPs
 - (1) social reintegration
 - (2) vocational training
3. examples
 - a) a project to assist ex-combatants in Sierra Leone to re-settle and re-integrate into society through vocational training and education
 - b) a project that aims to prevent malaria by increasing the utilization of insecticide-treated mosquito nets
 - c) a project that promotes self-sufficiency for street children or victims of human trafficking through vocational training and basic education in Viet Nam and Cambodia
 - d) a project that provides crop seeds, farm tools, and livestock as well as technical agricultural support for people in urban areas affected by breakdown of food supply networks in DRC
4. discussion
 - a) Culture of Prevention
 - b) How do Japan's activities towards poverty, infectious disease, and environmental degradation help alleviate the other threats?
 - c) How does Human Security apply to all these threats?
 - d) What do you think of this concept? Is it useful?

V. Other Issues

1. Middle East
 - a) Peace process
 - b) Afghanistan
 - c) Iraq
2. Cultural Exchange