Human Security and Japan’s Health Diplomacy

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1. Human Security in Japan’s foreign policy
Human security for Japan

Old pacifism endorsed by personal experience during WW2 is nearly gone ...

- Need to establish robust pacifism from within & outside Japan
- Human security as a policy concept for establishing new future-oriented pacifism

Changing relationships with neighboring Asian countries—beyond “donor-recipient” relationships

- Japan’s new role in sharing its experience and encouraging emerging economies to ensure human security (social safety net, health, etc.)
Evolution of human security and Japan’s involvement

1. Evolution of human security as a policy concept

1994: UN Human Development Report introduces the concept of human security

1998: Prime Minister Obuchi declares human security a core principle for Japan’s foreign policy framework at the first “Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia’s Tomorrow” in response to the Asian financial crisis


2000: Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori announces the establishment of an international commission on human security (later named the Commission on Human Security or CHS) at the UN Millennium Summit

2003: CHS defines human security as a policy concept in the report on Human Security Now; Advisory Board on Human Security created within UN
Evolution of human security and Japan’s involvement

2. From concept into action: incorporation of human security into ODA policies

2003: GoJ adds human security to its grant assistance item in its ODA budget (Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects) Japan’s ODA Charter is revised, adding “the perspective of human security “

2005: Medium-Term Policy on Official Development Assistance is announced, placing “human security” as the central focus of assistance

2006: New department for global issues is launched at MOFA

3. Promoting mainstreaming within the UN

2005: Japanese government encourages adoption of article on human security in the resolution by the UN General Assembly (UNGA)


April 6, 2010: with the encouragement of FHS, the first UN Secretary General report on human security was released
2. Human Security and Health
What is human security?

Growing interdependence among nations has challenged the traditional notion of “security”

- Need a new notion of security that supplements traditional security—securing not only national boundaries but also security of individuals and communities beyond borders

Definition of human security by Commission on HS

- Focus on three universal freedoms: freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity
- Target people and define the community as the unit of policy making
- To protect “the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and fulfillment”

Health is the vital core of human lives and offers a concrete field for developing strategies for human security
How to promote human security?
Dual strategy

**Empowerment**
- enable people to develop the capacity to cope with or prevent difficult conditions

**Protection**
- set up by states, international agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to shield people from critical and pervasive threats and enable people to protect themselves
Communities

Central government

Local government

Community decision making/implementation

UN agencies
Regional institutions
MDB
Bilateral aid agencies
Private foundations

Top-down approach
Empowerment

OWNERSHIP

Schools
Hospitals & clinics
NGO/CBO/FBO

Bottom-up approach
Empowerment

Conveying demands
Protection

UN agencies
Regional institutions
MDB
Bilateral aid agencies
Private foundations

Intl NGOs
Business
Private foundations

Business

Private foundations

UN agencies
Regional institutions
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Top-down approach
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3. Japan’s Domestic Experience
Some examples

- **Universal health insurance coverage [protection]**
  - Social health insurance was first legislated in 1922 and achieved universal coverage in 1961
  - Local governments (prefectures, townships) and non-governmental actors, such as the Japan Agricultural Cooperative (JA) and others, played a key role in enhancing coverage in the remote areas

- **Community-based health care and other activities [empowerment]**
  - Movements for the improvement of living conditions (1940-50)
  - Salt reduction campaign, increase coverage of antihypertensive drugs by private practitioners in the communities