

**MISSION PERMANENTE DU JAPON**  
AUPRÈS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES  
GENÈVE-SUISSE

EM/OHCHR/132

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the latter's letter ref.WGdiscriminationwomen(20 1-1) dated 8 December 2011, has the honour to transmit herewith the information on Human Rights Council Resolution 15/23 on the elimination of laws and policies that discriminate against women, from the Government of Japan.

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 07 March 2012



Enclosure mentioned

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

**08 MAR 2012**

Recipients : SPD.....  
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Information on Human Rights Council Resolution 15/23  
on the elimination of laws and policies that discriminate against women  
Government of Japan

1. Project on Poverty-Reduction for Chronically Poor Women in Afghanistan

~Institutional capacity-building by the Ministry of Women's Affairs~

After 23 years of conflict and subsequent Taliban rule, Afghan women have been forced to live very restricted lives as they are. Deprived of learning opportunities, women are hardly able to participate in the labor force. To protect and promote the human rights of women and improve their status, the Afghanistan Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) was established in 2001. MoWA is aiming at a 20% reduction of the female-headed households which are in extreme poverty, through the promotion of higher employment under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).

Since fiscal year 2002, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) has been continuously dispatching experts to MoWA to provide technical assistance to that Ministry. From 2005 to 2008, it implemented a project to enhance women's economic empowerment. Subsequently, since 2009, JICA has been implementing another project to strengthen MoWA's organizational capacity for improving the economic situation of chronically poor women. In this project, MoWA conducts an analysis of the situation of such women, and provides advice and training for other ministries and agencies.

The social participation of women is especially challenging in some regions, so, the project also approaches local male and religious leaders, taking into account the social and cultural background in those areas. The project is intended to contribute to reducing women's poverty and promoting women's empowerment.

2. Gender Mainstreaming and A Social Inclusion Project in Nepal

~Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Local Governance~

Nepal is a multiethnic country made up of almost 60 ethnic groups, different castes, and a variety of cultures and practices, where the education, employment and social participation opportunities for women and low-caste individuals are still very restricted.

Nepal's domestic conflict ended in November 2006. Profiting from past experience, the government is promoting Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion (GM/SI). The participation of people in socially vulnerable positions such as women, members of lower castes, and ethnic minorities is encouraged in order to help in the process of building a new nation. Ensuring central and regional budgets and developing a sufficient public service delivery system for socially vulnerable groups has been a major challenge. Yet, these efforts have fallen short due to a lack of effective coordination and insufficient experience in the relevant agencies.

In response to this, JICA started cooperating with the Government of Nepal to implement GM/SI policies in the central government and in two districts (Syangja and Morang), based on a detailed planning survey which had been conducted in September 2008. Since 2009, a series of GM/SI planning, appraisal, auditing, and monitoring training sessions have been put in place. Pilot activities encourage the participation of women and other socially vulnerable people in the formulation and implementation of community development in targeted communities.

This project encouraged women and socially vulnerable groups, to participating and make their voices heard in local governance.

### 3. Project on Gender Mainstreaming Phase2 in Cambodia

~Strengthening the capacity of national mechanisms~

The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) was established in 1996 as a national mechanism for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Cambodia. For gender mainstreaming, the primary task of MOWA is to make policy recommendations to other ministries and to secure coordination between them.

JICA conducted a Project on Gender Mainstreaming Phase 1 (PGM1) with MOWA from 2003 to 2008 to strengthen the force of MOWA needed to fulfill its task, in response to a request from the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC). PGM1 contributed to the capacity-building of the officials of MOWA and the relevant ministries through analyzing the existing policies, collecting the necessary information/data, planning the pilot projects in Kampong Cham Province, implementing, monitoring, evaluation and feedback in policymaking, in which all the steps were taken from a gender perspective. PGM1 eventually blended these steps into the PGM method. Through the PGM1 activities, horizontal coordination both among central ministries and among sub-national provincial departments and vertical coordination between central and sub-national levels were reinforced and thus the network for promoting gender mainstreaming was improved.

Having recognized the importance of making the PGM method be used even further within the government as the normal method, and also the need to build a framework to promote project(s), the RGC asked JICA for further technical support after PGM1, so PGM Phase2 was launched in September 2011 to find an effective system for implementing women's economic empowerment activities in the relevant ministries by strengthening a gender mainstreaming mechanism in coordination with MOWA.