BHN Association

Telecom for Basic Human Needs

Annual Report FY 2022

About BHN Association

Headed by top leaders of ICT industry in Japan, the BHN Association (BHN) was established in 1992 as a non-governmental organization specializing in ICT*. BHN commenced its first support activity for the people afflicted by the catastrophic disaster at Chernobyl (1992-94) constructing 120km microwave limk between Obninsk and Moscow, and implementing a medical information system as well as a TV conference system to hospitals. Since then, we have continued our efforts to realize our vision to this day. BHN stands for basic human needs, that is, fundamental requirements to be satisfied for a person to live a decent life. Securing food, clothing, and shelter have traditionally been thought of as the three essential components required to meet the requirements of basic human needs. However, at the present time, we could say that gaining access to ICT also constitutes a part of these requirements.

The activities of BHN are performed mostly by volunteer experts – experienced, skillful ICT engineers and specialists. BHN mobilizes its human capital such as knowledge, experience, skill and human networks to carry out a variety of projects. In order to deliver the best result to local communities, we collaborate with local actors such as people, communities, partner organizations and governmental agencies. BHN deploys activities in three major areas – (1) Social Development, (2) Emergency Relief, and (3) Human Resource Development.

*ICT=Information and Communication Technology

The fundamental importance of ICT infrastructures as an essential element in economic and social development was recognized at United Nation's Assembly in 1981.

Profile of BHN

Name	BHN Association
What is BHN?	"BHN" stands for "Basic Human Needs" which are indispensable for human life such as clothing, food and shelter. We believe that "information" could be an important part of "BHN".
Address	NTT Ueno Bldg., 5-24-11 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo, Japan 110-0005
Establishment	September 1992 (Voluntary Organization) September 1999 (Non-profit Organization) March 2010 (Certified Non-profit Organization)
Members	Corporations: 50, Individuals: 268 (As of March 2023)
Organization	Chairperson: Makoto YAMASHITA President: Hideo INOU Secretary General: Takeshi TOMINO Board Members: 38（Executive Directors:36, Auditors:2） Full-time Staff: 4 Part-time Staff/Volunteers: about 70 (including overseas staff)
Operating Expenses	205M JPY (about 1.5M USD)　(FY2022)

What BHN is aiming for

What BHN is aiming for and in what areas it is providing assistance are as follows.

Vision

We aim for everyone in the world regardless of their environment or situation, to have access necessary information and want to create a society that provides safety and security for all people.

Mission

By utilizing ICT, we aim to provide safety, security, and relief for people in developing countries and disaster areas, improve their living environment, and help solve social issues.

Three core pillars

BHN activities have three core pillars.
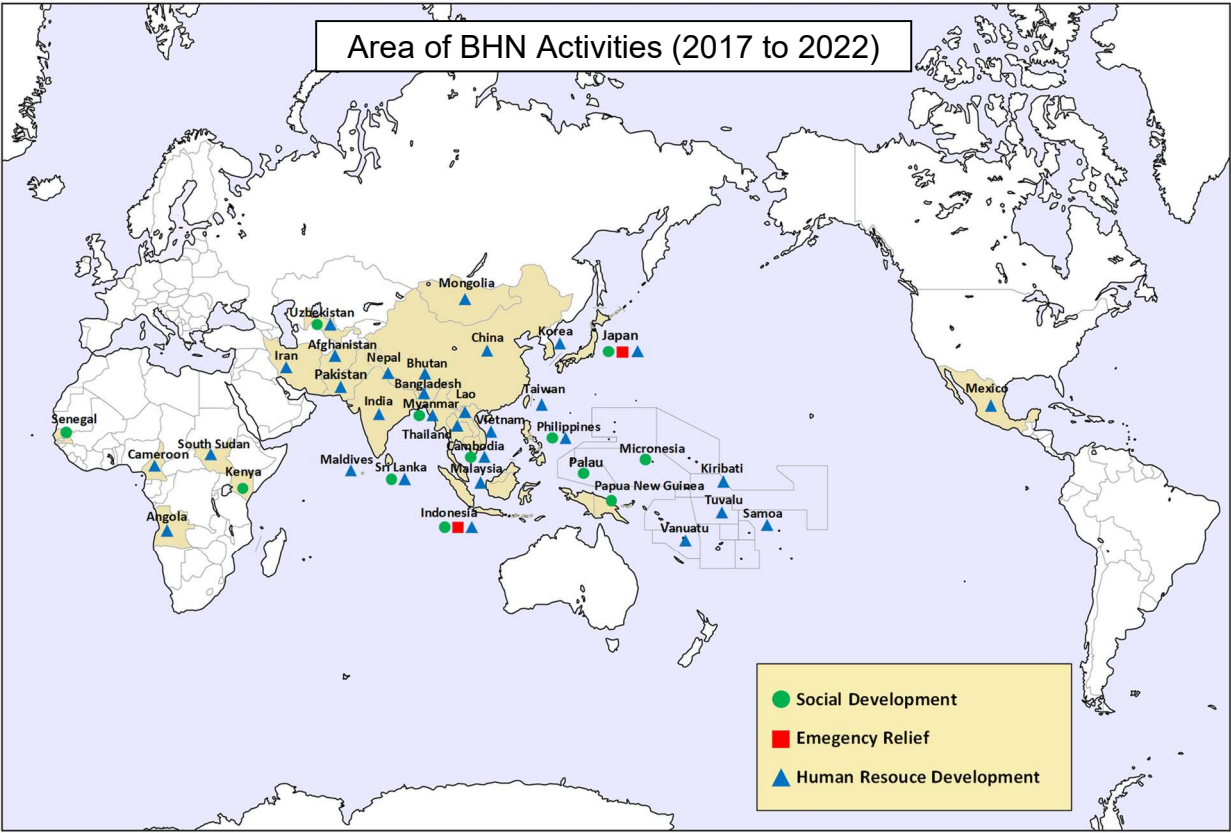
(1) Social Development

(2) Emergency Relief

(3) Human Resource Development.

Over the past six years, a total of 30 projects have been implemented to support local residents, disaster victims, trainees and students in 36 countries and regions.

Area of BHN Activities (2017 to 2022)

Legend:
- ● Social Development
- ■ Emergency Relief
- ▲ Human Resource Development

Review of BHN's Operations for FY 2022

[Social Situation]

In fiscal 2022, the novel coronavirus continued to mutate, with Japan being hit by the seventh wave of the pandemic in the summer, followed by the eighth wave in the fall and winter. But, in 2023, the situation has finally shown signs that it is beginning to abate.

Globally, since the military coup in Myanmar and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the world has become increasingly divided, and civilian life has become impoverished due to the disruption of economic and political systems. Furthermore, large-scale natural disasters have occurred in Pakistan, Turkey, and Syria with the need for humanitarian assistance increasing daily.

[Summary of Activities]

Under these circumstances, BHN promoted support activities and organizational management in line with "With Corona," placing the highest priority on the safety of officers, volunteers, and related personnel. Under the mid-to-long-term activity goal of "contributing to the achievement of the SDGs from the standpoint of an NGO through the use of ICT," and based on the fiscal 2022 business plan and budget (approved at the Board Meeting on March 18, 2022), this fiscal year, BHN continued to focus on three core pillars: (1) support for improving people's lives, (2) humanitarian assistance in times of emergency, and (3) support for human development.

In addition, we have endeavored to link all projects to the achievement of the SDGs and have also aimed to strengthen the project promotion system and expand our financial resources by considering the tandem principles of "improvement of project quality" and "expansion of fundraising".

In addition, as the risk of business continuity in Myanmar is increasing, new business development has become an urgent issue, and we worked on new business development in parallel with the promotion of existing businesses. Furthermore, since 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of BHN and the 15th anniversary of the Kansai Office activities, a series of commemorative events were held.

[Activities for Social Development]

As for social development assistance projects, two projects in Myanmar funded by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) through the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO projects ("N-Ren") were finally completed at the end of October after several extensions due to the Corona pandemic and the military coup d'état.

The next project in Karen and Mon State was also selected by MOFA, and the new project started in January 2023.

In addition, we donated educational tablet terminals to the Ifugao State University in the Philippines and held a presentation ceremony.

As for domestic projects, a well-balanced combination of remote and on-site assistance has been provided according to the status of the corona infection rate, and projects to support victims of the Kumamoto earthquake and the torrential rain in western Japan were completed at the end of this fiscal year.

Computer literacy equipment was supplied to ten schools for future jobs in Myanmar

[Emergency Relief]

As for emergency humanitarian assistance projects, there were no projects implemented during the fiscal year, either in Japan or overseas.

[Human Resource Development]

As for the human resource development support program, Lectures of BHN Dr. Kuwabara Donation-Supported Course were conducted in a hybrid format, and lectures of Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Training Course were given online.

2nd semester classes of 23rd and 1st semester classes of 24th BHN Human Development Program were held in FY 2022. The former was held in Japan in person and the latter was held online in cooperation with the Multimedia University of Malaysia (MMU).

Two Bangladeshi students sponsored by BHN Dr. Kuwabara's Fund Scholarship Program are doing well in their studies at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo.

Two scholarship students and Dr. Kuwabara(center)

[Organizational Management]

In terms of organizational management, BHN promoted digital transformation (DX) within BHN, aiming to realize an efficient and productive work style suitable for the age of the coronavirus.

In February, BHN outsourced its accounting and payroll functions as part of the DX initiative. In March, an Accountability Self-Check (ASC) was conducted to assess the trustworthiness of BHN as an organization.

[Public Relations]

With regard to public relations and awareness-raising activities, we endeavored to disseminate information in a timely manner through our website and newsletters, and exhibited at GLOBAL FEASTA JAPAN 2022 in October.

The Kansai Office held a lecture meeting and photo exhibition online in November, published the 15th anniversary commemorative magazine in January, and exhibited at the One World Festival in February.

BHN exhibition booth in GLOBAL FESTA JAPAN 2022

[Financials]

Despite the continued unrest in Myanmar and the Corona pandemic, in FY2022, ordinary income was 236,132 thousand yen (108% of the budget). Ordinary expenses were 205,052 thousand yen (94% of the budget), net changes in ordinary income totaled 31,080 thousand yen (+31,007 thousand yen over budget), and net changes in net assets after tax totaled 31,384 thousand yen (+31,382 thousand yen over budget).

The significant increase in net assets was due to large donations from corporations and individuals and having no expenses for BHN Dr. Kuwabara Donation-Supported Course this fiscal year.
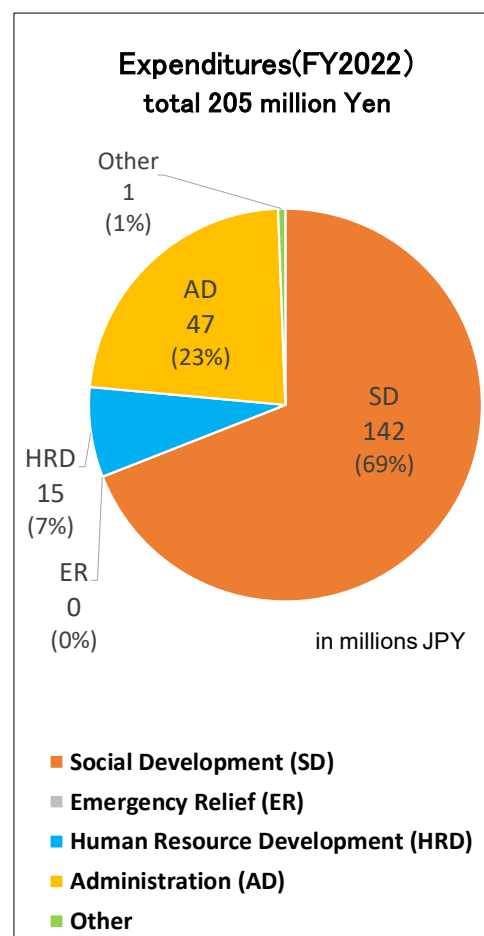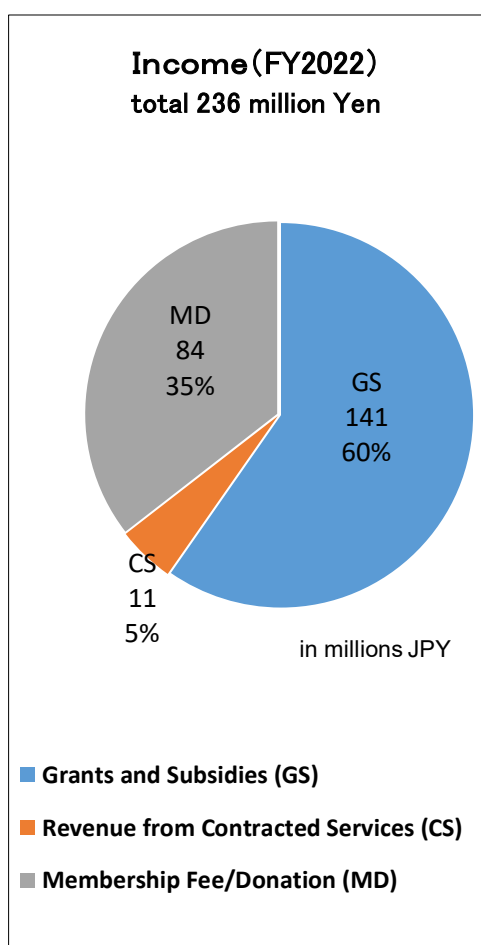
As this increase in net assets was a result of unforeseen circumstances, it should be considered a one-off event, and doesn't negate the need to continue working to strengthen the BHN's stable financial base.

Income

BHN's income totaled JPY 236 million in FY2021. From a source viewpoint, "Grants and Subsidies" totaled JPY 141 million, 60% of the total. "Revenue from Contracted Services" was JPY 11 million, 11% of the total, and "Membership Fee／Donation" – contributions – was JPY 84 million, 35% of the total.

Expenditures

Expenditures totaled JPY 205 million, in FY 2022. "Social Development" related expenditures was JPY 142 million and accounts for 69% of the total. "Emergency Relief expenditure" was JPY 0 million, 0% of the total. "Human Resource Development" was JPY 15 million, 7% of the total. And general and administrative expenses were JPY 47 million, accounting for 23% of total expenditure.

Income（FY2022）
total 236 million Yen

GS 141 60%
CS 11 5%
MD 84 35%

in millions JPY

■ Grants and Subsidies (GS)
■ Revenue from Contracted Services (CS)
■ Membership Fee/Donation (MD)

Expenditures（FY2022）
total 205 million Yen

Other 1 (1%)
AD 47 (23%)
HRD 15 (7%)
ER 0 (0%)
SD 142 (69%)

in millions JPY

■ Social Development (SD)
■ Emergency Relief (ER)
■ Human Resource Development (HRD)
■ Administration (AD)
■ Other

Appendix

Activities

I   Social Development

There are a number of underprivileged people whose basic human needs are not being sufficiently met. BHN supports such people and communities to improve their standard of living and to develop their capabilites utilizing ICT.

Projects Conducted by BHN　（**Refer to Table 1.**）

— Establishment and management of a community radio stations for disaster risk reduction and
　 betterment of rural communities

— Electrification of rural habitation with solar power generation

— Training for the using and maintaining of ICT systems following installation

— Telemedicine networks over the internet for prenatal and postnatal care (perinatal period care)

— Telemetering system to monitor river water levels for disaster prevention

— Distance learning systems at isolated school utilizing multimedia technology

Table 1   Major Social Development Support Activities

No.	Project description	County / Area	Period
1	Support for victims of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident (Microwave circuit construction for telemedicine via satellite)	Russia, Republic of Belarus, Kazakhstan	1992 - 1994
2	Support for wireless network construction for medical care centers in rural areas	Laos, Afghanistan	1998 - 2007
3	Donation of PBX equipment to hospitals	Myanmar, Ukraine, Afghanistan	1997 - 2003
4	Support for telemedicine systems	Malaysia, Thailand	1999 - 2008 2010 - 2013
5	Training in IT skills and wireless technology	Afghanistan	2004 - 2006
6	Area Information Transmission System (disaster management, improving living environment) (an application of Japan's Disaster Management Administration Radio System")	Myanmar	2013 - 2019
7	Installation of and training on how to use equipment related to solar power generation systems (Support for ethnic minority returnees, victims of conflict)	Myanmar	2013 - 2019
8	Construction of and training on how to use community FM broadcasting station	Bangladesh	2013 - 2017

9	Support for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake
	  - Emergency Support
	  - Broadcasting stations
	  - ICT support
		Japan
		Iwate pref.
		Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima pref.
		Ishinomaki, Miyagi pref.
		Iitate, Fukushima pref.
			
			2011
			2011 - 2014
			2011 - 2019
			2011 - 2020

10	ICT support in disaster-stricken areas
	  - Earthquake in Kumamoto, Kyushu
	  - Torrential rains in western Japan
	  - Torrential rains in northern Kyushu
	  - Typhoon 15 & 19, in 2019
	  - Torrential rains in 2020
		Japan
		Kumamoto pref.
		Hiroshima pref.
		Asakura, Fukuoka pref.
		Marumori, Miyagi pref.
		Kure, Saka and Mihara, Hiroshima pref.
			
			2016 - 2020
			2018 - 2020
			2020
			2020
			2020

11	Disaster risk reduction support and health and hygiene awareness improvement projects in schools and villages in Gwa Township, Rakhine State	Myanmar	2020 -

II Emergency Relief

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones and tsunamis disrupt communities and threaten people's lives.

As emergency relief, BHN provides those affected in the devastated areas with ICT support to access lifeline information and communication networks for quick recovery after disasters.

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Projects Conducted by BHN   （**Refer to Table 2**）

— Community address system to furnish timely indispensable information

— Restoration of community radio stations and provision of broadcasting equipment

— ICT support – PC, printer and internet access – for local government and residents

— Safety confirmation system using satellite phones

— Wireless and satellite communication systems as an emergency measure

Table 2　Major Emergency Relief Activities

Event	No.	County / Area	Description of Supports	Period
1. Earth-quake	(1)	Taiwan, Turkey	Providing radio equipment, free telephone services via satellite	1999
	(2)	India	Communication support for medical teams	2000
	(3)	Iran	FM broadcasting station equipment, distribution of radios	2004
	(4)	Pakistan	Free telephone services via satellite, Community Addressing (CA) Systems	2005
	(5)	Indonesia	Well pump, distribution of radios	2006, 2009
	(6)	Haiti	Community FM broadcasting station restoration, CA system	2010 - 2014
	(7)	Japan (3 Prefectures in Tohoku)	Installation of internet connections t for evacuation shelters, construction and restoration of temporary disaster broadcasting stations	2011
	(8)	Nepal	Construction and restoration of community FM broadcasting stations	2015 - 2016
	(9)	Japan (Kumamoto Pref)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estates	2016
	(10)	Japan (Hokkaido)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estates	2018
	(11)	Indonesia (Sulawesi)	Community FM broadcasting station, distribution of radios	2018 - 2019
2. Typhoon Cyclone Hurricane	(1)	Honduras	Providing communication equipment	1998
	(2)	Myanmar	Community Addressing (CA) Systems	2008, 2010
	(3)	the Philippines	CA System, ICT stations	2013 - 2014
	(4)	Japan (Hiroshima Pref)	Community support such as PCs, ICT environments, etc. for temporary housing estates	2018
3. Tsunami	(1)	Indonesia, Sri Lanka	Community FM broadcasting station, distribution of radios	2005
	(2)	Japan (3 Prefectures in Tohoku)	-Installation of internet connections in temporary housing, operation support, etc. (Coastal cities in Iwate Prefecture, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, etc.)	2011 - 2012
			- Construction of an Information Network for Victims (Iidate Village, Fukushima Prefecture)	2011 - 2012
			- Construction and restoration of broadcasting stations, distributing radios (Tohoku 3 prefectures)	2011 - 2012
4. Refugees	(1)	Afghanistan	Free telephone service via satellite	2002
	(2)	Iraq	Medical team communications support	2003

III Human Resource Development

Human Resource Development is a core activity of BHN. We are giving ICT engineers and governmental officers of ICT departments in developing countries opportunities to learn cutting-edge technologies and their applications.

BHN Human Development Program　（Refer to Figure 1）

BHN Human Development Program (the 'Program') was established in 1998 as BHN's own human resource development program aiming to foster future leaders in the ICT field in Asian countries. The Program has been inviting promising persons every year, currently from 9 Asian countries, and providing them with a comprehensive training program lasting two semesters, that is, the first semester in Malaysia and the second semester in Japan. A total of 176 people from 13 different countries have participated since its inception through to the 23rd program.
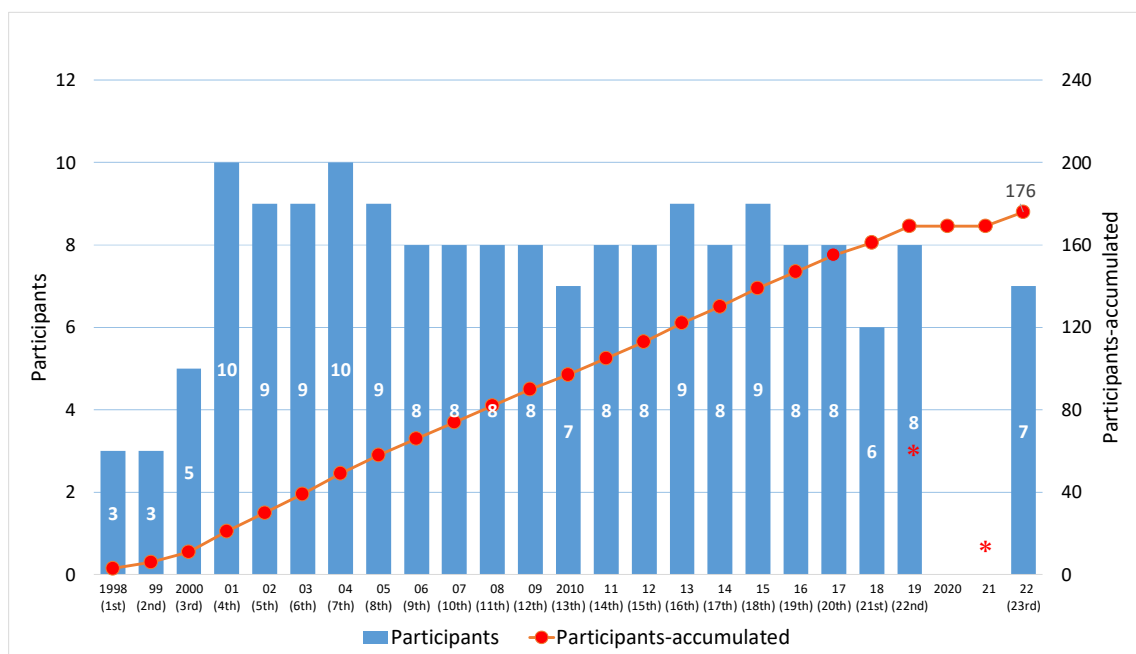
＊Although the 1st semester of 22nd progaram took place in 2019, the 2nd semester was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1　Number of participants in BHN Human Development Program

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Training Course （Refer to Figure 2）

APT, founded as a joint initiative between the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 1979, has been providing human capacity building activities programs to its member countries and territories.

BHN has been entrusted with providing APT/EBC-J* human resource development programs and APT has sponsored the programs since FY2011

Participants in the course program take lectures from ICT experts and researchers in Tokyo and visit the companies and projects to see the ICT application with their own eyes. However, the program in 2019 was suspended due to the sweeping COVID-19 pandemic.

The program resumed in the form of online training in 2020 and 2021, many participants taking the course in their home countries.

Since this program began, the numbers of participants and countries/regions have reached 150 and 28 respectively. APT members and recent participants in the training course are shown in Figures 2.

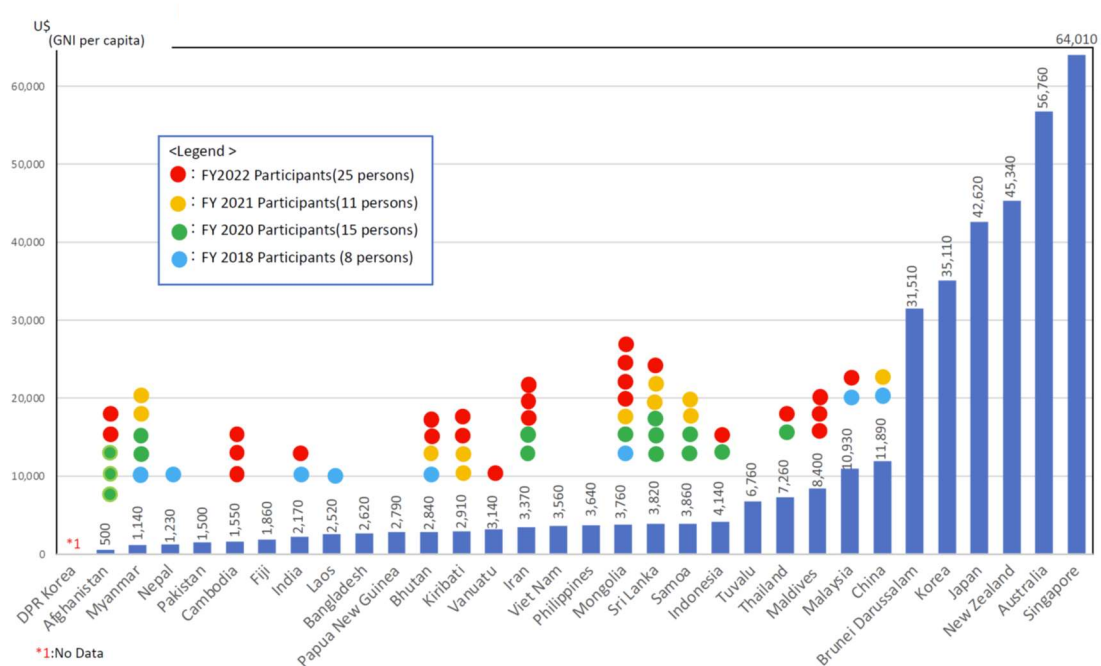*EBC-J : Extra-Budgetary Contribution from the Government of Japan

Figure 2　Participants in APT Training Course and APT Countries

(Source: BHN Implementation Report on 2022 APT Training)

BHN Dr. Kuwabara Donation-Supported Course

BHN Association, in collaboration with the University of Electro-Communications（UEC），Tokyo, established a course - "BHN Kuwabara Donation Supported Course" - in 2019.

This graduate course is funded with an endowment from Dr. M. Kuwabara, advisor to BHN and ex-vice president of NTT, and is being held annually at UEC for eight years, from 2019 to 2026.

This course is designed mainly for students from developing countries to deepen their understanding of SDGs and ICTs which facilitate them their attaining the goals.

This donation-supported course of study includes two courses titled "Information and Communications Technologies for SDGs" and "International Communication for Science and Technology" for a full year - two semesters. Students from overseas – 38 students from 10 countries and regions for the former course and 21 students from 11 countries and regions for the latter course – took these courses in the 2022 academic year.

Students from UEC attended the class on campus, and students from other universities, under the "Super Partnership Program for Graduate Schools", e.g., Muroran Institute of Technology, Muroran, and Akita Prefectural University, Akita, also attended the class online.

BHN Dr. Kuwabara's Fund Scholarship Program

BHN Dr. Kuwabara's Fund Scholarship Program (the 'Kuwabara Scholarship') was established in March 2020 and funded by a considerable donation from Dr. Moriji Kuwabara, former Chairman of BHN Association. Based on the vision of Dr. Kuwabara, the Kuwabara Scholarship has been offering the opportunity to former participants of the BHN Human Development Program to enroll on a one year master's degree at top Japanese Universities: the National Graduate Institute for Policy Study and Hitotsubashi University Business School, to increase their skills and knowledge. The Kuwabara Scholarship basically accepts two scholarship students every year.