



annual report
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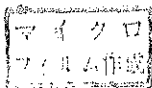
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FORWORD

The aftermath of the global inflation and recession triggered by the oil crisis in 1973 still remains despite the diverse efforts which have since been made to cope with it. In this situation, the economic gap has been widened not only between the advanced and developing countries but also the resources-rich and resources-poor developing countries, thus making the north-south problem even more complex and serious than before.

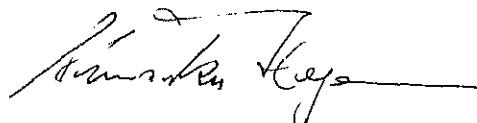
In recognition of the fact that such a situation is hampering the political and economic development of all nations, frequent meetings for dialogue and cooperation have been provided by many international organizations including the United Nations and the Conference of International Economic Cooperation in an effort to establish a new international relationship based on common interests of North and South.

Attempts are being made, through close international cooperation, to bring a solution for diverse common problems facing mankind: limited natural resources, energy sources, food, and explosive population increase.

Against such background, Japan is strongly urged to expand her share in international cooperation. The Japanese government has announced to more than redouble its Official Development Assistance in the coming five years, and to cultivate relations of mutual trust with all countries of the world in the spirit of solidarity.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency which is now in its fourth year of operation, fully recognized the importance of the role it should play in such internal and international situations and is resolved to redouble its effort to extend cooperation more efficiently and smoothly than before to meet the demands from various parts of the world.

In presenting this Annual Report of Japan International Cooperation Agency which introduces the Agency's performance in 1976, we sincerely hope that it will serve for the understanding of the significance of Japan's overseas cooperation services.



Shinsaku Hogen
President

December, 1977

Japan International Cooperation Agency

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PART 1

INTRODUCTION



ESTABLISHMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY

SECTION 1 OBJECTIVES OF ESTABLISHMENT

Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency") was established on August 1, 1974 in accordance with the provisions of the Japan International Cooperation Agency Law (Law No. 62, 1974) as a new executing organ of Japan's international cooperation services for developing countries. It was organized to integrate the services and operation of the then existing Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (established in 1962 for government-sponsored technical cooperation) and the Japan Emigration Service (instituted in 1963 for overseas emigration services), to take over part of the services of the Japan Overseas Development Corporation, and to implement new international cooperation programmes.

In instituting the Agency, prime consideration was given to the need for broadening Japan's overseas cooperation activities in order to meet the growing demand for her economic and technical assistance. Specifically, attainment of the following objectives was envisaged in addition to the enhancement of government-sponsored technical cooperation which Japan had been conducting.

- (1) Close linkage between technical cooperation and financial cooperation
- (2) Integration of government-sponsored cooperation and private cooperation
- (3) Promotion of services of young Japanese volunteers with technical knowledge who live and work with the local people
- (4) Promotion of various emigration services for Japanese emigration aspirants

The Agency fulfilled these objectives at a steady pace, and recorded appreciable achievements in a matter of two years or so after its establishment. Especially in the pursuit of the first two objectives (closer linkage between technical and financial cooperation and between government-sponsored and private cooperation), successful results were attained in the form of 'financial cooperation with technical guidance' under the investment and financial programme for experimental projects which were executed in combination with the improvement of related facilities (roads, schools, hospitals, green zones, etc.) and technical renovation implemented concomitantly by the Agency as one of its major cooperation services in the field of social, agricultural, forestry, mining and manufacturing development. Also, worthy of attention is the fact that the implementation of the said investment and financial cooperation programme, which presupposes close liaison and coordination with the Export-Import Bank of Japan and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, has enabled the Agency to work

in far closer collaboration with them than ever. This is contributing not only to the integration of technical and economic cooperation but also to a close linkage between the government-sponsored cooperation offered by the Agency and the private sector cooperation. Despite the fact that during the last two years, Japanese corporations abroad have been rather inactive due to the global economic recession, the Agency's endeavours to link the government-sponsored cooperation with the private sector's cooperation have been producing tangible results through its cooperation with developing countries in the fields of social, agricultural, forestry, mining and manufacturing development.

SECTION 2 ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY

Pursuant to the provisions of the Japan International Cooperation Agency Law, the Agency carries out its overseas and domestic services for international cooperation under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its main supervising authority, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry which exercise supervisory power on specific matters. For smooth and efficient implementation of its cooperation programmes, the Agency also makes constant endeavours to obtain extensive cooperation from all pertinent government offices, local public bodies and private organizations in Japan, and maintains close contact with the governments of developing countries and international organizations.

The services offered to developing countries by the Agency come under the following five major categories.

1. Government-sponsored technical cooperation
2. Services of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers
3. Cooperation in social development, agricultural and forestry development, and mining and manufacturing industry development (investment, loans, etc.)
4. Emigration services
5. Training and recruiting of capable and qualified persons for technical cooperation

A summarized explanation is given below on each of the five categories.

1. The government-sponsored cooperation is provided under agreements with

recipient countries. It covers a diversity of programmes such as the acceptance and training of participants in technical training courses (hereinafter referred to as "participants"), dispatch of Japanese experts, supply of equipment, technical assistance for overseas cooperation centres, development surveys, medical cooperation, agricultural and forestry development cooperation, and primary products development cooperation.

2. Japan Overseas Volunteers service is designed to dispatch, under agreements with developing countries, young Japanese volunteers to those countries where they live and work together with the local people to cooperate in the socio economic development of their respective service areas. To encourage this cooperation service, the Agency provides assistance in the recruiting, screening and training of volunteers, and further promotes national understanding about the services and activities of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.
3. The third category covers cooperation in social development including transportation, communications, sanitation, living environment, etc.; agricultural and forestry development; and mining and manufacturing industry development. The Agency facilitates the supply of funds for construction and improvement of various related facilities which become necessary concomitant to such development.

The Agency's cooperation in these different fields of development is offered in the following four ways.

- (1) Supply of funds necessary for various development projects which are difficult to be obtained from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund or the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

For this purpose, the Agency provides loans or suretyship for liabilities required for construction and improvement of facilities related to various development projects and also contributory to the development of surrounding areas, e.g., construction of feeder roads, schools and hospitals, consolidation of green zones, and installation of waterworks and sewerage following public construction works. The Agency also provides loans suretyship for liabilities or makes investment in experimental development projects, which are deemed difficult to undertake or to stabilize the basis

of their management unless they are carried out in combination with technical renovation or development. These funds are offered on extremely soft terms.

- (2) Construction and improvement of facilities contributory to development, entrusted to the Agency by national or local governments of developing countries, on the basis of agreements.
Such construction and improvement services include land consolidation and improvement, infrastructural improvement for increased agricultural and forestry production, afforestation, construction of mining and industrial facilities, and improvement of pollution control facilities and other public facilities.
 - (3) Surveys and technical guidance necessary for the above-mentioned projects covered by the Agency.
 - (4) Technical guidance for development projects which Japanese corporations undertaking development projects in developing countries often need and request, especially in the field of agriculture and forestry, such guidance is provided by the Agency in so far as the smooth execution of its main services is not interfered with.
4. The emigration services are offered in an integrated manner both in Japan and accepting countries to provide the emigrants with necessary assistance and guidance. The following are the main services offered under this programme.
- (1) Research and dissemination of information related to emigration, consultation and good offices.
 - (2) Pre-departure training and orientation course, payment of travelling expenses, and provision of accommodation, guidance and escort services for emigrants.
 - (3) Consultation and guidance services for emigrants concerning business, livelihood and jobs in accepting countries.
 - (4) Construction and improvement of welfare facilities necessary for smooth

settlement of emigrants in accepting countries.

- (5) Acquisition, preparation, care and transfer of land for emigrants, and good offices for acquisition of land.
 - (6) Provision of necessary loans, investment, suretyship for liabilities involved for emigrants or their organizations engaged in agriculture, fisheries or industry.
 - (7) Provision of funds and investments in those whose undertaking in agriculture, fisheries or industry abroad contribute to the settlement and stabilization of emigrants (excluding emigrants themselves and their organizations).
5. The training and recruitment of capable and qualified persons for technical cooperation are carried out by the Agency through the consolidation of systems designed for those purposes and the implementation of various training courses.
 6. The Agency is also engaged in the collection and analysis of informational data, compilation of statistics, public relations activities, and project assessment, which are all closely interrelated with the other five categories of the Agency's activities mentioned above.

In addition, the Agency conducts the following activities with the approval of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- (1) Procurement and delivery of vessels and equipment to the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre.
- (2) Cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations in the implementation of technical cooperation programmes undertaken by such organizations.
- (3) Services related to the screening and recommendation of experts or survey missions directly invited by the governments of developing countries.
- (4) Management of warehouses in Bolivia and Paraguay for preshipment storage of emigrants' farm produce.

SECTION 3 FUTURE PROBLEMS AND IMPROVEMENTS

(1) The developing countries which had been seriously affected by the oil crisis in 1973 and the following global recession demanded a new international economic order and permanent sovereignty on natural resources in international forums. At the fourth meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held at Nairobi in May 1976, for instance, they insisted upon the establishment of a Comprehensive Programme and a Common Fund both aimed at price stabilization of primary commodities, and further asked for cancellation, shelving or deferment of outstanding debts in order to avert further accumulation of foreign debts. To bring about a realistic solution for these problems, efforts are being made in the forums such as UNCTAD and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In the problem of foreign aid which is part of the north-south problem, ODA (Official Development Assistance) has come to occupy the central part. Nevertheless, the average ratio of ODA to GNP of all member countries of DAC (Development Assistance Committee of OECD) is reported to have dropped to 0.33% in 1976 from 0.36% recorded in 1975. Japan's ODA also declined from 0.23% to 0.20%, which is far lower than the said average and ranks the 13th among 17 DAC countries. In terms of bilateral technical cooperation, however, Japan's cooperation rose from 87.2 million US dollars to 108.1 million US dollars.

At a time when the north-south problem has become serious amid the global business recession, Japan finds it imperative to expand her overseas cooperation especially in Official Development Assistance for developing countries, with which she maintains the largest trade among developing countries, in order to contribute towards the maintenance of international peace and stability and open socioeconomic system.

The Agency, which extends part of Japan's ODA, has a responsibility to contribute to the expansion of ODA mainly through its technical cooperation.

(2) A brief account is given below on the problems involved in the operation of the Agency's programmes.

1) Training Programme for Overseas Participants

Budgetary appropriation for this programme should be increased to meet the requirement of institutes which receive trainees. At present, these requirements are not met due to the shortage of fund.

Further, the accommodations and training facilities (training centres) should be improved and remodelled to meet the growing demand for training under the programme.

2) Expert Dispatch Programme

Operation of this programme presupposes sufficient availability of capable experts in different specialized fields. To fill this condition, it is necessary to seek the cooperation of all relevant government offices and private organizations and to improve the systems for recruitment and training of qualified experts.

In order for these experts to be able to render satisfactorily guidance services in their respective countries of assignment, it is necessary to increase the budgetary appropriation for their activities as well as for the equipment and materials they need in their daily work. Further, a suitable support system should be established under which they will be provided with whatever assistance they may need even after return to Japan.

3) Development Survey Programme

This programme needs to be amplified in both quantity and quality to meet the growing demand for sophisticated and diversified development surveys. Further more from the viewpoint not only of surveys but also of promoting the implementation of projects, it is important to strengthen the linkage with fund cooperation.

4) Equipment Supply Programme

Equipment supply under this programme falls far short of demand at present and should be expanded by increasing budgetary appropriation to a large extent.

5) Project-Based Technical Cooperation

In the project-formula technical cooperation, the above three programmes (Training Programme for Overseas Participants, Expert Dispatch Programme, and Equipment Supply Programme) are offered in a package. Therefore, the overall cost involved sometimes amounts to as much as about 500 million yen with the result that the counterpart expenditure to be borne by the recipient country is often so heavy that the project has to be postponed for financial reasons.

In the coming years, therefore, it will be necessary to establish a system under which such package assistance can be provided in organic combination with the grant aid for partial coverage of local cost according to the need.

6) Services of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

As many recipient countries have come to entertain increasingly great expectations of the volunteers' services and capabilities in recent years, it has become an important task to select and train young volunteers capable of meeting such expectations.

7) Investments and Loans Programme (Cooperation in Social Development, Agricultural and Forestry Development, and Mining and Manufacturing Industry Development)

For expanded supply of loans from the Export-Import Bank of Japan and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, the procedures for screening loan applications should be simplified and a clear distinction be drawn between the financing areas covered by the two institutions. At the same time, the terms of loan contracts should be made softer for qualitative improvement of financing services offered under this programme.

8) Training and Recruiting of Qualified Persons for Technical Cooperation

Although considerable improvements have been made on the experts' treatment and remuneration including travelling expenses, further improvements need to be made in respect of their welfare and health.

After three years of its operation, the programme is now set well afoot in the training of persons but there is still much to be desired. Positive effort should be made to establish a system under which expenses incurred in connection with the experts' activities will be paid to the organizations with which they are affiliated in their respective countries of assignment.