

An area of great poverty and development needs

The Southwest Asian region consists of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Approximately 1.1 billion people, one fifth of the world population lives here, with a vast diversity of races, religions, languages and customs. This diversity, combined with the region's sluggish economic activity and low income levels, is a cause of political and social problems.

It was in this context that the SAARC (South Asian Alliance for Regional Cooperation) began operations in December 1985 with the aim of constructing technological and practical cooperative relations between the seven nations of the region, without any reference to political aspects.

As is clear from such things as the per-person GNP of the countries (between \$180 and \$540 according to a 1992 World Bank Report), Southwest Asia, which contains four LLDCs* (Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Nepal), is one of the least affluent regions of the world, with great development needs.

Except for the Maldives, more than half of the labor force of the countries continues to be engaged in agriculture and the people's economy is thus at the mercy of the weather. The trade structure consists of the export of agricultural products and primary products such as fibers while machinery and other capital goods are imported. This is a fragile structure which is readily affected by primary product price variations and most of the countries have a permanent trade deficit.

Like most countries which became newly independent after the Second World War, the Southwest Asian nations, desiring to achieve economic independence, initially protected their domestic industry by a policy of import substitution. However, the economic liberalization adopted by Sri Lanka in 1977 is now being followed by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal through the active promotion of policies such as the encouragement of investment and exports and the relaxation of regulations.

* LLDCs: Least Less Developed Countries

Japanese cooperation with the Southwest Asian region

Japan is an important aid-giving country for the Southwest Asian countries. In 1993 \$959.04 million, 11.7% of total ODA, was given to this region; for 1994 the figures were \$1.751 billion and 18.3%. In terms of the forms of aid, in the 1960s more than 90% was loans, principally to India and Pakistan but the proportion of grants (grant aid + technical cooperation) subsequently increased. The records for 1994 show that 26% was grant aid, 8% was technical cooperation and 66% was loans.

Taking into account the existence of the four LLDC countries, efforts were made to increase the grant aid and technical cooperation, principally in the fields of provision of infrastructure, agricultural development, health and medicine, housing environment and human resources development. Bangladesh, in particular, is the leading recipient country in the world.

Technical cooperation is carried out in all fields but occupies only a small proportion of Japan's ODA. In recent years, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have been the most important recipient countries for technical cooperation.

Taking antipoverty policies, the BHN field and environmental protection into account

Most of the Southwest Asian countries are actively introducing market economy principles and actively promoting development policies in which a macroeconomic balance is given an important place. However, the economic development of the region is generally stagnant, and the majority of the population continues to suffer poverty. When promoting development policies, it is therefore necessary to take into account anti-poverty measures, basic human needs (BHN)* and environmental protection to ensure sustainable development, in addition to providing the infrastructure for social and economic development.

Reflecting the economic and social development of the Southwest Asian region,

Japan has given these countries the status of priority countries for aid. However, the countries of Southwest Asia generally have inadequate mechanisms for receiving aid and an inadequate ability to meet local costs (the costs of implementing the aid which are met by the recipient country) and it is necessary for Japan to work positively to establish clearly the priority sectors and grasp the problems for implementation.

In the cases of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal, a large number of annual consultation missions on grant aid and technical cooperation have been dispatched in recent years, to make efforts to carry out the most appropriate aid in the fields where the need is greatest for the economic and social development plan of the country, taking into account the actual conditions within the country.

JICA has set up aid study groups for each of these five countries and these are analyzing development needs and carrying out research on the nature of future aid. On the basis of the findings of these research groups, the Government of Japan is dispatching a general economic cooperation study team to have policy discussions with the recipient countries in a medium and long term perspective.

Global issues, flood-prevention policies etc

As a GII (Global Issues Initiative on Population and AIDS) Japan is developing cooperation in the fields of population and AIDS with a target expenditure of three billion dollars in the seven years from 1994. Based on this plan, in the Southwest Asian region, project-formulating study teams have been sent to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and it is planned to identify and formulate good proposals (where cooperation can be expected to yield results).

In Bangladesh one-third of the land is flooded by the rains in the monsoon season (from June to October). Because of this, and prompted by the major flooding in 1987 and 1988, international organizations and donor countries have joined together, under the direction of the World Bank, to carry out the Flood Action Plan (FAP), with its twenty-six

* Basic human needs (BHN): essential services for the community, such as drinking water, sanitary equipment, hygiene, and education, as well as basic consumer goods such as food, housing and clothing.

Pakistan: A Gender Training Plan for Federal and State Government Employees

.....Activities of a WID expert

●● The low social status of women

For religious reasons, the custom of Purdah (an Urdu word meaning curtain) continues to have strong roots in the Islamic state of Pakistan, where women are supposed to spend their lives within the four walls of the home.

However women are increasingly to be seen on the streets of cities and the number of working women steadily increases.

On the other hand, the situation is different in the villages where eighty percent of the population still live. There women continue to be veiled in the burka, an enveloping robe which prevents anyone seeing them when they go out.

Pakistani women face harsh conditions in all aspects of their lives. Since it is widely held that women do not need education, the national literacy rate for adult women is only 21% (as compared to 49% for adult men). It is not unusual for there to be almost no women in a village capable of reading and writing.

Also, life skills such as health, hygiene and family planning are not adequately disseminated and the infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate and population growth rate are notably higher than in other developing countries.

In these circumstances, there has been an approach, centered on the Federal Government Women's Development Ministry (established in 1979), towards solving and improving some of the problems women face in their lives. Projects have been carried out mainly for women only.

In recent years, however, the focus has changed and it is now being recognized that it is necessary to take an approach on a macro level. There is now a heightened awareness on the part



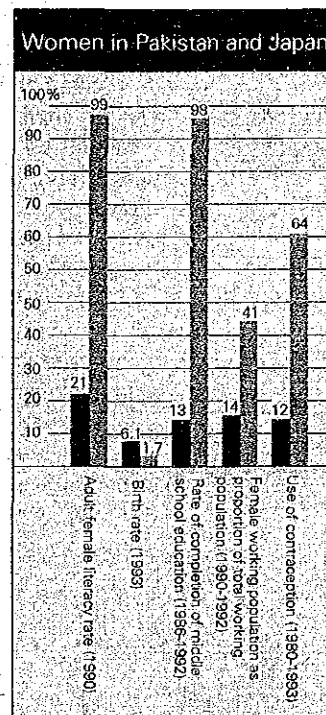
Women in Pakistan.

of the government and a greater determination to tackle these social problems.

●● A Gender Training Plan for Government Employees

It was because of this that the Women's Development Ministry established the National Training and Resource Center for Women in Development and plans to carry out gender training aimed at raising the consciousness of this issue in federal and state government employees.

The activities as a WID (Women in Development) expert are to produce a final version of this plan and carry it through to effective implementation.



■ Pakistan
□ Japan

Up till now, the need has been confirmed for this plan through consultations with government employees, including high-level officials, an attitudes study and analysis of WID-related work at the government and NGO level. The Women's Development Ministry will proceed to the preparation of a final version of the plan on the basis of these results. The main activity as an expert from now will be to give advice on this task.

When working as a WID expert in Pakistan, full account must be given to the religious and cultural background. No effects will be achieved if a foreigner bursts suddenly into a unique social environment which has been built up over a long history and baldly advocates sexual equality. Rather, this will only provoke a negative reaction.

So, although the message may remain the same, it is important to adapt the approach and the mode of expression. When handling the extremely sensitive issue of social gender differences in a recipient country, it is important not to forget to take this into account in every detail.

Seen in the long term, it would be pleasing if the future work as an expert could contribute in some way to the construction of a society in which the men and women of Pakistan could live together easily and in an atmosphere of mutual support.

(Pakistan WID Expert)

Activities of a WID expert

A WID expert is active in a wide range of fields which have the aim of assisting the women of developing countries, including education, maternal and child health, and health and safety at work. With the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, it is expected that WID experts will find a wider scope for their activities.

Sources: UNICEF World Children's White Paper 1995
UNDP Human Development Report 1994

flood prevention policies. Japan has cooperated on five plans including the study of the flood dikes in Dakha city and the northwest region, and also by sending study teams and experts. It is planned to finish the FAP studies during 1995 and bring them together.

Also BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), other Bangladeshi NGOs and international NGOs, and NGOs of donor countries are carrying out a wide range of activities. In 1994 JICA studied the activities of these NGOs in Bangladesh and collected information to identify possible future coordination with these NGOs.

In the case of cooperation in India, the second country-specific aid study group was established, following that set up in 1988, and this provides analysis on development needs and the nature of future aid. A government-based General Study Team on Economic Development was dispatched in late March 1995 and it was recognized that priority should be given to the fields of economic infrastructure, alleviation of poverty and environmental preservation in the cooperation offered by Japan to India. JICA has hitherto carried out technical cooperation in the fields of agriculture and health but the cooperation from Japan to India has for the most part (90%) taken the form of loans (yen loans).

The market-oriented economic reforms which began in India in 1991 have shown considerable results in the last four years. However, there are major development needs including the improvement of the living conditions of the impoverished social strata and an engagement with environmental problems with the aim of ensuring sustainable growth. In such circumstances, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in technical cooperation and grant aid in the fields of BHN and the environment, where the record up to now has by no means been adequate.

Prioritized, effective and in tune with local conditions

At the end of February 1995, the annual consultative study team was dispatched to Nepal to take part in policy discussions with the Government of Nepal. During these discussions, the Japanese side made it clear that its priority fields for cooperation with Nepal were an attempt to cope with BHN, the provision of basic infrastructure and preservation of the environment including natural disasters. The problem for the future is how to link grant aid and technical cooperation organically so that cooperation can be implemented more effectively and efficiently than previously.

Also in 1994 an ambitious project was moving ahead in the western region. This region is faced by a major problem of forest depletion and the project aims at "reforestation promotion" by combined cooperation of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and project-type technical cooperation, whose efforts were joined by those of the development study, to carry out activities designed to preserve the forest by raising the living standards of the indigenous villagers.

Specifically, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers cooperate with local NGOs to study the development needs of villages and to prepare and implement a village development plan based on the needs of the residents themselves. Aid is given to this along with the "Community Development and Forest Watershed Conservation Project" which is implemented as a project-type technical cooperation. Also the development study on "Integrated Watershed Management in the Western Hills", a study of the natural conditions and social and economic baselines, and management plan for the basins of the rivers which flow through the region, is being conducted. The study thus prepared will give some hints about land use to the "Community Development and Forest/Watershed Conservation Project" mentioned above.

Bangladesh: multinational cooperation involving sixteen countries

Flood Action Plan

●● The Flood Action Plan, produced under the direction of the World Bank

The JICA office has a small rubber dinghy with an engine. At the time of the unprecedented flooding of 1988 the office, flooded to a depth of 60cm, was in a state of desperate crisis. One lesson learned at this time is to be found in the form of the ever-present rubber dinghy.

The floods of that year were the largest in history, with 58% of the land surface of the country submerged and damage suffered by a wide range of people, livestock, agriculture, transport and communications; the cost of restoring and renewing this amounted to 2.2 billion dollars (or 6% of GNP).

Prompted by this huge damage, the World Bank and the developed countries announced aid to Bangladesh for this unique flood damage from a humanitarian standpoint and the Flood Action Plan (FAP) emerged from this in January 1990. Unlike previous economic cooperation, the FAP involved the joint action of sixteen donor nations in a general study of 26 action plans and multi-nation cooperation towards the implementation of flood prevention work in Bangladesh. Japan, with its world-ranking expertise in flood prevention, is participating in five action plans.

As part of the FAP, JICA has carried out the following grant aid programs: the project for the construction of a Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter, the project for the Improvement of the Storm Water Drainage System in Dhaka, the project for Protecting Revetment on the Bank of the Meghna River and the project for the Establishment of a Microwave Link for Meteorology. It has also carried out the following

development studies: the Geodetic Survey, the Greater Dhaka Protection Project (Study in Dhaka Metropolitan Area of Bangladesh Flood Action Plan 8A) and the North West Regional Study (Bangladesh Flood Action Plan 2).

Some experts believe that a cause of the flooding is the excessive deforestation around the upper reaches of the Ganges and Brahmaputra in India and Nepal (which results in rain water coming into direct contact with the earth, washing it into the river, causing silting and inevitable flooding).

Also villagers who live outside the levee and cannot bear the thought that their homes and land may be flooded consider that they are safe as long as the river remains within the levees and continue to break down the levees (or "public cuts" as they are known locally) until finally even those areas surrounded by levees are affected by flood damage.

●● Information exchanges between donor countries at informal meetings

Informal LCG water conferences, meetings comprising the sixteen countries involved and the small number of NGOs and which are held to find out opinions and

knowledge from the donor nations who contribute to the FAP, are held once a month at the Danish embassy. The participants are at the "hands-on" level and the chair is taken by the Netherlands. There is exchange of opinions and information on the participants' individual problems and general FAP problems, there are study meetings at which a guest is invited to speak on a specific subject or a specific project may be examined. As these meetings begin at noon, the intense discussions are accompanied by the consumption of bananas, large sandwiches and gallons of tea. Minutes are not taken and the discussion is informal, occasionally straying onto the subject of the ODA budgets of the different nations when there is a wry appreciation of a common sympathy between the similarly afflicted.

(JICA Bangladesh Office)

Flood Action Plan

A flood prevention plan prepared by the World Bank after the disastrous flooding of 1988. JICA is working jointly with, amongst others, donor countries, the United Kingdom's Overseas Development Agency (ODA) and the Asian Development Bank in providing grant aid and carrying out development studies.



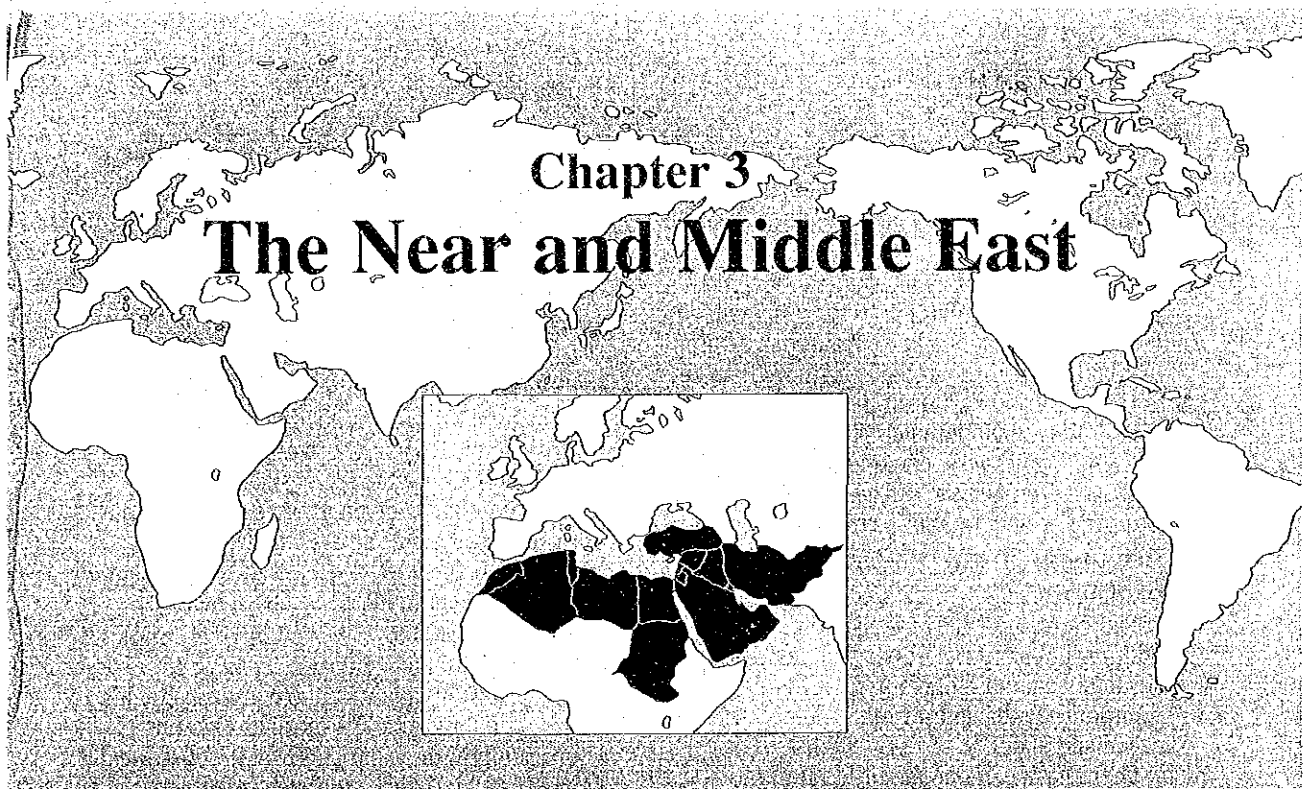
Submerged houses and farm land in 1991.

In Pakistan, the Social Action Program (SAP) has been prepared as the development plan for 1992-1995 and policies of increasing development in social sectors whose development has fallen behind will be pursued in the future. The main development fields for the SAP are: (1) primary education; (2) basic medical care; (3) improvement in nutrition; (4) improvement to village water supplies and hygiene; and (5) population and family planning.

There has also been a tendency for the social sector to be a priority in the cooperation requested from Japan by Pakistan. In response to this, Japan has given grant aid to the construction of women teachers training colleges and primary schools and other projects in the educational field and in the future JICA will examine possible increases in cooperation in this sector.

As Sri Lanka has comparatively high levels of education and income in comparison with other countries of the region, conditions favor technical cooperation and it is expected that the cooperation will be carried out more effectively in the future by being linked with financial aid.

Sri Lanka is prioritizing the relatively underdeveloped states in the south for future development and since 1994 JICA has been carrying out the "Southern Area Development Plan Study" in order to prepare a master plan for overall regional development.



The crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe

The Near and Middle East region, which stretches from Afghanistan in the east to Morocco in the west and from Sudan in the south to Turkey in the north, comprises 21 countries. This region, the crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe, is not only in a geographically important position but also has 70% of the world's known oil reserves and produces 50% of the world's oil exports.

This region has a major effect on the economy of Japan and of the entire international economy. Japan depends on imports of oil, 75% of which come from the Near and Middle East.

However, not every one of the 21 countries has the benefit of underground resources and there are major economic differences between the countries in the region. While there are countries which have both oil and natural gas, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and Nigeria, others, such as Sudan and Yemen are classified as LLDCs.

A historical land, the birth place of three religions

Climatically almost all the countries are of the arid type but the Maghreb countries on the Mediterranean coast (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) have a Mediterranean climate whilst Yemen has a highland climate.

Since there is little rainfall in the arid region to ensure water, agriculture is difficult. The countries described above as lacking underground resources also have a harsh natural environment with little rain, which makes economic development all the more difficult.

In terms of ethnicity and race, the Near and Middle East region comprises seventeen Arab countries and the four non-Arab countries of Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and Israel. The three globally influential religions of Islam, Judaism and Christianity all originated in this region and it is said that religious differences exacerbate political differences as, for instance, in the confrontation over Jerusalem between Israel, where Judaism is the national religion, and other countries where the national religion is Islam.

As evidenced by the confrontation over Jerusalem between Israel and the Islamic nations, religious differences tend to increase political differences.

In terms of religion and politics, it is also necessary to pay attention to the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism as seen, for example, in Algeria.

The political systems in the Near and Middle East include republics such as Egypt and Iraq, and others, like Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates which are monarchies or emirates.

Advances in the Palestinian problem

The Near and Middle East is confronted with problems in Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan, which greatly affect global economic trends and, by extension, world peace and stability.

There has been one major trend in these problems. With the agreement between the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organization, Palestinian provisional autonomy has been granted to Gaza and the West Bank, which had been occupied by Israel since the third Middle Eastern conflict in 1967.

Following on from this there has been a continuing trend towards peace in the region, with such things as the signing of a peace treaty between the Jordanian and Israeli governments in October 1994. It is also expected that peace negotiations between Syria and Israel will be held in the near future.

It is in these circumstances that aid to Palestine has been started. This aid is the first to be granted to a region which is still not united as a nation and it is viewed in the context of support by the international community for the peace process.

Since it has been difficult to accept participants for training from Palestine on the basis of bilateral cooperation, two hundred participants have been accepted since 1985 (71 in 1994) via the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) and the UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East).

Promotion of South-South Cooperation in this region has included ten Third-Country

Training Programs: three courses including electrical power training in Jordan and seven courses including nursing education in Egypt.

Japanese cooperation in the Near and Middle Eastern region

Japanese bilateral cooperation in the Near and Middle Eastern region makes up about 10% of total bilateral cooperation since 1979. With the Gulf Crisis in 1991, bilateral cooperation within the region increased in terms of yen loans given as aid to the countries at the peripheries of the area, and is \$1.865 billion, equivalent to 20.4% of all bilateral aid, the highest level in history. Subsequently, in 1992 this reduced to 4.3% and in 1994 it was \$747 million, equivalent to 7.8%.

The largest recipient country in the region is Egypt which receives 39% of all bilateral cooperation in the Near and Middle East. Next come Turkey (16.7%), Jordan (9.6%) and Syria (7.7%) (all cumulative totals).

Past record and priorities of JICA programs

In 1994 JICA spent ¥11.373 billion, 8.2% of the total, on programs in the Near and Middle East.

Since there is a wide political, economic and social variety amongst the countries of the region, JICA, whilst placing priority on both a concern for the environment and the effective use of resources, carries out its cooperation in accordance with conditions within individual countries.

For oil-rich countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, priority is given to aid (particularly cooperation with human resources development) with self-help efforts to escape the oil-dependent monoculture economy. For lower middle-income countries such as Jordan and Syria, priority is on the provision and expansion of social infrastructure to support sustainable growth, and priority is placed on a concern for BHN in cooperation with LLDCs such as Yemen.

At the multi-nation Middle East peace negotiations in 1992 five working groups, on the environment, economic development, water resources, armament control and

Egypt: Ten Years of Third-Country Training

.....Third-Country Training: Nursing Education

●● Aid for South-South Cooperation in Egypt

Egypt is both one of the major nations of the Near and Middle East and in a leading position in Africa. In order to cooperate with the countries of Africa, the Egyptian government established an African Technical Cooperation Fund in 1980 and accepts participants for training from, and dispatches experts to, African countries.

Third-Country Training in Egypt began with the visit to Japan of the then Egyptian Foreign Minister (now UN Secretary General) Boutros Ghali in 1984 when he advocated the concept of trilateral cooperation* in which Japan and Egypt would assist African countries.

This proposal was accepted and two Third-Country Training courses, nursing education and training for shipping crews, were held in 1984 and 1985. Subsequently courses on rice-growing, welding technology and seismology were added and in 1994 a total of seven courses were held.

When these courses are carried out, the requirements are decided by JICA, the African Technology Cooperation Fund and the training institutions. The training institutions are supported financially not only by JICA but also by the Egyptian Government's African Technology Cooperation Fund. This Third-Country Training takes the form of aid from the Japanese government for "South-South Cooperation" by Egypt.

●● Almost 300 participants from 26 countries

The Third-Country Training course in nursing education in Egypt, for nursing chiefs and others in a leading position in the nursing

field, was held ten times by 1994. The course is designed to impart educational methods to produce a qualitative improvement in hospital nursing and knowledge in primary health care* and is also intended to refresh the knowledge obtained by the participants as part of their professional duties.

290 people, from Egypt and 26 African countries, have attended the course.

Exceptional efforts are made by the Egyptian Ministry of Health when these courses are held. In an attempt to improve the content, the content of previous courses was reviewed and the wishes of the participants taken into account during repeated examinations by a committee of experts. Two experts are dispatched each year from Japan on short-term postings during which they lecture and give advice on the performance of the courses.

There is a long history of Japanese cooperation with Egypt

in the medical and nursing fields, including the project-type technical cooperation project "Nursing Education and Research Project" (1978-1983), "Cairo University Pediatric Hospital (1983-)" and "the High Institute of Nursing, Cairo University (1994)".

Third-Country Training in nursing education is thus carried in coordination with other projects. Thus, Japanese cooperation results in effective Third-Country Training, which is carried out with all the concentrated powers of Egyptian nursing.

(JICA Egypt Office)

Egypt Third-Country Training 'Nursing Education'

The Rhodes Education and Technical Center of the Ministry of Health of the Egyptian Government became a host institution for training in 1993. It accepts thirty participants annually, at the rank of nursing manager, or other leading positions for forty day training course.

■ Recipients of Egyptian Third-Country Training

Year	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	Total
Course											
Maritime technology	19	14	16	15	19	12	15	18	11	7	146
International training program for African nurse leaders	25	27	27	30	30	33	30	31	31	26	290
Rice cultivation techniques			14	19	12	19	18	14	19	19	134
Welding technology					14	15	15	15	15	20	94
Seismology seminar							29	27	29	28	113
Rice processing technology										16	16
Construction works (Palestinians only)										18	18

* Trilateral cooperation: assistance carried out in cooperation with more than two nations granting aid.

* Primary health care: a medical philosophy which includes prevention of illness and promotion of health, as well as diagnosis and treatment of illness.

refugees, were set up. Japan took an active role in these, taking the chair of environment group and the deputy chair of the economic development, water resources and refugee groups.

As part of the programs of the economic development group, JICA carried out the development study for a Tourism Development Plan in Jordan. This study, which began in July 1994, had the purpose of developing tourism in the southern part of Jordan, to make effective use of the tourist resources offered by the historical and cultural heritage of the sites which are found in such abundance in Jordan. Cooperation related to the economic development group included holding a Small and Medium Enterprises Development Seminar for the Near and Middle East region in January 1995.

In the case of the water resources group, as this is a region where water resources are scarce, and Jordan has large confirmed subterranean water resources, the study on "Brackish Groundwater Desalination", has been under way since October 1993.

In relation to the environment group, the development study on "The Improvement of the Water Supply System for the Zarqā District" has been carried out since April 1994.

Future topics for cooperation in the Near and Middle East include the necessity of a policy review to consider future forms of cooperation with Palestine (which itself does not yet have all the functions of a state), forms of cooperation with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and other surrounding nations as the peace process moves on, as well as forms of cooperation with countries which, like Kuwait, Qatar and other countries of the United Arab Emirates, are expected to graduate from being ODA recipient countries under the DAC* regulations in the near future.

As part of this, JICA carried out project confirmation studies, in Syria in April 1995 and in Lebanon in May 1995, with the aim of carrying out practical consultations on economic cooperation. Regular annual consultations (most recently in February 1995) are also held in Egypt, which has greater

political and diplomatic influence in the Near and Middle East, in order to maintain a political dialogue.

* DAC: Development Assistance Committee. Institution under OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). It administers information exchange, policy adjustments, etc. regarding assistance to and economic cooperation with developing nations.

Syria: Aid for consolidating the emergency medical treatment system

.....Plans for an emergency medical treatment system

●● An ambulance service for all of Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic is making self-help efforts towards "Health for All by the Year 2000" proposed by the WHO (World Health Organization). Hitherto, the programs, which have been directed towards solving problems, have included increased primary health care programs, training of medical workers, improvement of hospital facilities and consolidating the maintenance and management of medical equipment.

There is, however, a tendency for medically-trained people to be concentrated in the cities, and regional differences in medical services are a major problem. Also the medical facilities, particularly the materials and equipment in the main regional hospitals, are noticeably ageing and deteriorating and it is difficult to provide an adequate medical service under such circumstances.

Because of this, there was a request for Japan to cooperate in the planning and consolidating of the emergency medical service, the renewal of worn-out ambulances and the provision of ICU machinery and materials, in order to correct regional imbalances and to improve the medical service.

Japan responded to this request by cooperating in the renewal of ambulances and the fitting of radio equipment so that ambulances were provided in all the fourteen provinces of Syria by 1993.

●● Cooperation in training

This was Syria's first experience of setting up a full-scale emergency health system and introducing ambulances and the JICA Syrian office and the Ministry of Health cooperated on the extensive preparation which was required.

Ambulance with Cooperation Syria-Japan written on the side. These are in service in all fourteen provinces of Syria.



Part of this preparation was cooperation on the training of doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers using Arabic texts. The role of the JICA Syrian office in this was to provide support by arranging venues, schedules and lecture programs.

Not everything went completely smoothly: there were frequent changes in the venue and "episodes" such as the discovery that the radio antennae had been fitted to the ambulance roofs without taking height into consideration and they could not get into the garage.

However, with the responsible persons in the Ministry of Health acting as lecturers, the training, which was both practical and easily comprehensible, was considered of great value.

The consolidation of the Syrian emergency health system has only

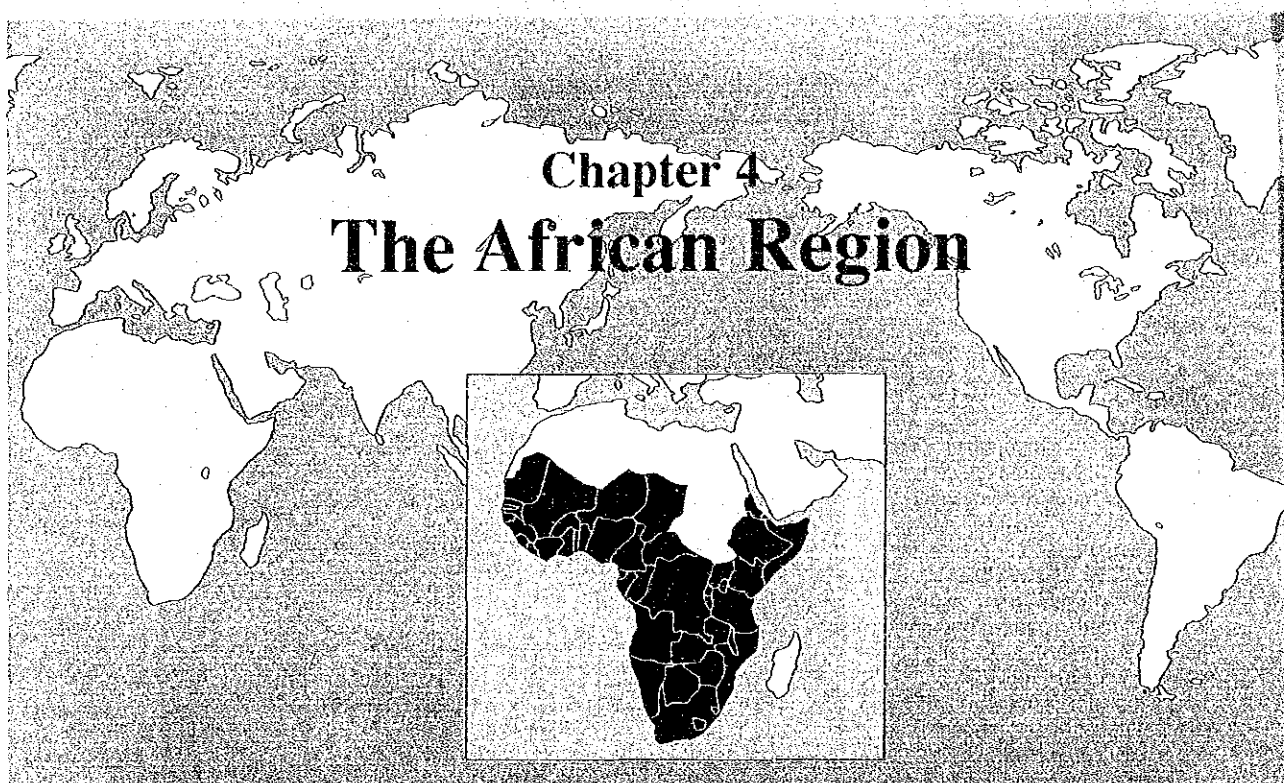
just begun. The aid given by JICA has included grant aid combined with acceptance of participants for training.

Ambulances with "Cooperation Syria-Japan" written on the side can be seen in Syria today. It is our constant hope that these ambulances will see much service in the future, saving lives and helping to improve the Syrian emergency medical system.

(JICA Syria Office)

▼ Plan for a Syrian emergency health system

Grant aid for the provision of emergency medical equipment and materials and ambulances with radios in Damascus and the fourteen Syrian provinces.



Amidst the lingering effects of colonialism

The African region (sub-Saharan Africa excluding Sudan) is a large region with a total area of 21.78 million square kilometers and comprising 47 countries. The climate is extremely varied, with arid regions like the Sahara and Kalahari deserts as well as hot and humid tropical rain forest regions both occupying relatively large areas.

Many of the African countries became independent in the 1960s. Under the rule of the Western Powers in the colonial period, tribes with a common language and customs were divided, a factor which is thought to be a cause of the tribal struggles and broader confrontations since independence. Currently, ethnic and tribal problems form the background to the civil wars which have broken out in Rwanda, Burundi and Nigeria.

As a result of the agricultural policies of the colonial period, many countries in the African region have inherited a monoculture structure in which the economic base is a specific primary product. This brings the evident problem that the economic structure is weak,

with the economic base of the state vulnerable to drought and other climatic factors and to variations in international markets.

There are many other problems to be faced including the limited educational opportunities, which mean that national development is held back and the human resources which should support it are almost completely lacking.

Slow growth and 32 LLDCs

The 1960s, the period during which many of these countries gained independence, was a time when the international economic environment was favorable and, with the aid of the industrialized countries, they achieved steady economic growth. Subsequently, however, with the drop in the prices of primary products, the oil crisis, the failure of economic policies and regional wars, although development aid from the industrialized countries increased overall, growth is currently halted.

In the 1970s, in order to maintain the levels of incomes and investment, many countries took on large loans from overseas. From the 1980s, with economic stagnation, these debts

Ethiopia: The roles of development aid and cultural anthropologists

.....Development and application of existing plant resources in Southern Omo Province

●● Dispatch of Cultural Anthropologists

The special exhibition "Wisdom of Ari: Community-based Technology of Southern Omo" was held at the museum of the Ethiopian Research Institute of the University of Addis Ababa.

It featured more than 140 exhibits including wooden artifacts, ceramics, metal artifacts and craft works made from bamboo and other plant products. A video, "Ensete, the wonderful plant" (made by Documentary Japan, with cooperation from JICA) was shown in Amharic and it attracted a throng of visitors day after day.

The exhibition was organized by the JICA expert posted to the Research Institute and his Ethiopian counterpart.

Southern Omo is 700 kilometres south of Addis Ababa, a two day journey by car. The 110,000 Ari people who live in this green land are engaged in agriculture, principally the cultivation of the ensete, a plant unique to Ethiopia.

They also use wood, bamboo, palm and ensete and other plant

materials in making a range of tools. With the addition of metal products and ceramics, almost all products, from kitchen utensils to clothes, are produced within the region. The Ari are a people who live a life of self-sufficiency using their rich plant resources.

The plan which began with the dispatch of an individual expert in 1993 is notable in being one of the few in which a cultural anthropologist is sent into the field as a JICA expert to assess existing local knowledge and technology and find out the possibilities for future development.

●● Respecting the values of another culture

The people of the southern part of Ethiopia, who live by a variety of means, including agriculture, stock-raising, hunting and fishing, have accumulated traditional wisdom and techniques about the use of plants.

The first task of the expert who was dispatched was to live with the people and cooperate with a Ethiopian researcher to study and record their knowledge of plant

use, something which can be described as their most precious property.

The education of Ethiopian researchers so that they could understand the importance of this task and continue it was also a major objective. Three Ethiopian counterparts who were engaged in the study have completed master's degrees at Addis Ababa University and are continuing the research.

The truly unique point of the posting however was that the cultural anthropologist, who spent many years in contact with the local people, cooperated with Ethiopian researchers, who were in a position to understand development and expansion from the Ethiopian standpoint.

The importance of social analysis in development has been emphasised for a long time but a failure to give assistance to people who need it and results which do not help the recipients are problems which occur repeatedly. These problems come about because we do not know enough about the people who will be the subjects of development.

The next task is to require that the culture of an anthropologically different people is known and respected beforehand and then to find means of ensuring that the people in need of aid can participate actively in the development.

(JICA Ethiopia Office)

Japanese and Ethiopian cultural anthropologists exchange opinions on an Ethiopian craft work.



▼ Development and application of the existing plant resources of Southern Omo

The riparian forests of the Omo basin in southern Ethiopia are rich in useful plants and are an oasis of resources for the people who live there. It is planned to conduct a specific study of the plant resources of the region and find latent plant resources with possible applications in other regions.

grew to vast sums so that in the early Nineties the debts were twenty fold what they had been in the Seventies.

According to the standards set by the DAC (Development Assistance Committee), 32 of the 47 LLDCs in the world are in Africa. Judged in terms of low-income countries, 41 of the 71 such countries are concentrated in this region, giving some indication of the difficulties in social and economic development in Africa.

Towards a time of political and economic reform

It can be said that the countries of Africa are currently facing a time of major change, both politically and economically. Many countries have previously adopted a strong centralized system of government under a charismatic leader in the form of a military government or single party dictatorship. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe and the crumbling of the Cold War structures, there has been an evident trend towards democratization and a transition from socialistic single-party dictatorship to a multi-party system.

Economically, too, the policies of many countries have failed and the previous socialist economic policies have been abandoned. These countries have begun to liberalize and establish new economic structures under the guidance of the World Bank and the IMF (economic structural adjustment means to reduce budgets, restrict money supply, review public utility charges and subsidies, devalue the currency and integrate the foreign exchange system, privatize nationalized industries and reform financial administration).

In response to the economic difficulties of the African countries, international organizations and the DAC countries have supported self-help efforts centered on structural adjustment, through the establishment of the Special Program of Aid for Sub-Saharan Africa (SPA) and the Africa Fund by the IDA (International Development Association) and the implementation of the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) by the IMF.

Trends towards democratization in South Africa and elsewhere

One major trend in the African region is the collapse of apartheid in South Africa and the election of Nelson Mandela, chairman of the ANC (African National Congress), as the first black president in April 1994.

Since South Africa has overwhelming economic power in southern Africa, its return into the international community is of great significance for the future of southern Africa. Japan bases its policy on support for the self-help of the black people who were the victims of apartheid by making donations, from 1990, through United Nations organizations such as the United Nations Education and Training Plan for Southern Africa (UNETPSA), the United Nations South Africa Trust Fund and the Anti-apartheid Information Fund, giving grant aid to grass-roots projects* and accepting participants for training.

In order to assist the Mandela administration with the task of national development after the abolition of the apartheid system, the Japanese government announced in July 1994 ODA of 300 million dollars (\$30 million in grant aid, \$20 million in technical cooperation and \$250 million in yen loans) for the following two years and also \$500 million in finance from the Japan Import Export Bank and \$500 million in trade guarantees, making a total of \$1.3 billion of aid to South Africa. In order to put this public pledge into specific action, JICA has dispatched a Project Confirmation Study Team (in June 1994) and a project formulation study team in January 1995 for health, water supply and drainage as well as hygiene in an effort to gain a precise understanding of aid needs, mainly in fields which will benefit the black sections of the southern African population.

JICA has also held "Seminars on Democratization" as part of its training programs. These mainly provide an introduction to the Japanese political party system, electoral system and the relations between labor and capital, for officials of the South African government, with the purpose of supporting the process towards democratization.

* Grant aid to grass roots projects: projects which support various social and economic development projects at grass roots level, requested by local public organizations in developing nations or NGO. These are smaller projects for which ordinary grants are difficult to obtain.

Ghana: Aiming at improved levels of medical treatment, particularly of infectious diseases

.....The Noguchi Memorial Institute Project II



Experiments performed by a Japanese expert and Ghanaian counterparts.

● ●

At the Noguchi Memorial Institute

Ghana is known as a country which produces cacao, the raw material of chocolate. Many Japanese also know of Dr Hideyo Noguchi, who died in Ghana while researching yellow fever.

The Noguchi Memorial Institute of Ghana University stands on the Gon hills overlooking the capital Accra. It is a basic medical laboratory at which Japanese and Ghanaian doctors carry out medical cooperation, carrying on the wishes of the late Dr Noguchi.

Medical cooperation between Japan and Ghana has a long history, beginning in the 1960s, a time when tropical diseases were endemic and, because of the economic recession, health administration was inadequate and medicine in a poor state.

Japanese medical cooperation with Ghana began in 1968 in order to improve these circumstances. First there were ten year's of cooperation with the Medical School of Ghana University to provide a basis. The Noguchi Memorial Institute of Ghana University was established in 1979 on the basis of the results of this.

● ●

Towards the establishment of infectious disease countermeasures

In this project, there is technical cooperation in basic medicine and a transfer of research and testing technology to provide training in medicine, medical research and testing.

The problem faced by present-day Ghana is infectious diseases. Research, with cooperation from Japan, is concentrated on a group of diseases which can be prevented by inoculation, including measles and whooping cough, and those whose incidence can be reduced by appropriate preventative measures, such as dysentery, AIDS and bilharzia.

Japan and Ghana are cooperating in programs to implement these measures against infectious diseases. The first of these programs is to establish techniques of diagnosing and testing patients and to carry out field studies in the various regions to find some of the factors which make these diseases endemic.

In another program, based on these results, a model area is selected for disease prevention measures for the people and vaccine tests are performed to find an effective vaccination method.

Although suffering from shortages in budget and personnel, the Ghanaian side learned many techniques of carrying out research and the Japanese side overcame cultural differences to act as

technical advisers. This research, with its enthusiasm and emotional ups and downs, is now showing more certain results.

Several useful articles have been published. Anti-infectious disease strategies are now bearing fruit in the villages and some villages are acting independently.

These results are not confined to the laboratory and technical courses and seminars are held in Ghana and other African countries.

In the future, the research methods and disease prevention methods established here will come into wider use and there is a spate of plans including plans for academic exchanges with other African countries and public lectures.

(JICA Ghana Office)



The Noguchi Memorial Institute Project II

The aim is to enhance research into infectious diseases and epidemiology to determine the reasons for exacerbation of infectious diseases and find better countermeasures. This project-type technical cooperation also has the objective of giving the Noguchi Memorial Institute the function of reference laboratory and establishing it as a site for personnel training.



A study meeting for local people.

In addition to South Africa, other countries in the African region, such as Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda and Madagascar have shown signs of moving towards democratization. In addition, in both Mozambique and Angola, both of which have suffered from prolonged civil war, peace treaties have been signed between the government and anti-government forces and national reconstruction has begun.

In countries such as Nigeria and Zaire, on the other hand, the process towards democratization is encountering difficulties.

In response to conditions in Africa, JICA held an "International Conference on African Development" jointly with the UN in October 1993, in an effort to deepen the international and domestic understanding of the current situation in Africa and the need for aid, through a close examination of preferable future development in Africa.

At this International Conference on African Development, the Japanese Government announced that, as part of specific aid to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, it would give grant aid of between \$250 million and \$300 million in the next three years in order to develop underground water resources and supplement water supplies. In response to this, JICA has actively developed cooperation through development studies and grant aid and it is considered that the pledged targets will be achieved successfully.

As a follow-up to the International Conference on African Development, Japan, in conjunction with the UN and the Indonesian government, held the "Asia-Africa Forum" in Indonesia in December 1994 and is also scheduled to take part in the Regional Workshops in Zimbabwe in 1995, through which policy discussions with other African and Asian nations are promoted.

Japanese cooperation in the African region

Japan's bilateral cooperation in the African region in 1989 amounted to \$1.04 billion, 15% of total bilateral aid, in 1990 it was \$790 million (11.4%), in 1992 \$860 million (10.1%), in 1993 \$970 million (11.8%) and in 1994 \$1.14 billion (12%); thus it represents an average of around 10% of total bilateral aid.

The special characteristic of aid to Africa is an emphasis on grant aid compared with other forms of aid. The proportion of grant aid to Africa is 61.4%, as compared to a global average of about 25%. If technical cooperation, which is also a form of grant, is added to this, the proportion is even higher, at 79.8%.

Yen loans have not been made to countries which lack the capacity to repay them and there has been no increase in the countries who have received them. Although there are the problems of local and recurrent costs, it is considered that the proportion of grant aid will increase in the future.

The largest recipient country in the region in 1994 was Ghana which received 11.8% of the bilateral aid given to the region. Next was Kenya (11.3%), followed by Zambia (9.3%) and Tanzania (9.1%).

Kenya: Cooperation in creating universities for development

.....The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology Project

●● With progress in technical cooperation

In 1980, when JICA began cooperation on the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, it was still known as the Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology and was a junior college of agriculture and technology.

Grant aid had been given to the college from 1978 for the provision of laboratories and classrooms and technical cooperation in six courses in the faculties of agriculture and technology continued from 1980 to 1990.

During this time, Japan and Kenya had cooperated through dispatch of JICA experts and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, training, teaching and testing of instructors and technicians in Japan and provision of educational and research materials necessary for practical work, to improve the quality of Kenyan instructors, technicians and students.

As a result of these efforts, the reputation of the graduates of JKUAT, with their mixture of theoretical and practical technology has stood high.

In 1990, it was permitted to become a branch of Kenya University and in 1994 it became



an independent institution, establishing a position as specialized university with strengths in technology and changing its name to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), the fifth established national university in Kenya.

As an extension of this process, project-type technical cooperation on three courses in the Faculty of Agriculture and four courses in the Faculty of Technology has been progressing on a schedule lasting for five years from 1990.

●● An open educational organization

Apart from the educational curriculum of the university, JICA has engaged actively with Third Country Training of participants from neighbouring countries in order to support the transfer of the technology developed through previous technical cooperation. One of these, the "Applied Food Analysis Course" is mainly on foodstuffs and post-harvest

Putting the emphasis on practical technology and theory - this is the philosophy of the University

processing, another, the "Applied Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Technology Course", is mainly about electrical and electronic engineering.

In Kenya women play important roles in agricultural production and the life of agricultural villages. The University's farms are used to hold an "Agricultural Productivity Improvement Techniques Course" (In-Country Training*) for women of agricultural villages with the purpose of improving the technical level of these women.

As an open educational organization, the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has developed a wide range of programs aimed at solving problems within Kenya.

Up to now the University has developed relatively steadily. Its move to independent university status, however, brings with it a need for the instructors and technicians to reach even greater levels of excellence in pursuit of an even higher quality of education and research.

In the future too, JICA plans to support the activities of the University to promote education and research which, based on the spirit of practical studies, is strong in practice as well as theory. It is also necessary to continue to support the effort of the Kenyan side to establish an autonomous management system for the university.

(JICA Kenya Office)



The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology Project

Project-type technical cooperation in which the necessary personnel and physical support for the management of a bachelor's program is supplied for three subjects in the Faculty of Agriculture and four subjects in the Faculty of Technology of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.)

Lecturing scene. High expectations for an open educational organization.

* In-Country Training: training for technicians in a developing nation, administered by an organization in the nation which employs staff fostered by Japan through past technological cooperation.

Priority for aid to the African region

For aid to Africa, the concept of "African-type development" is necessary to reflect the unique nature and diversity of the region. This perception led JICA to establish an "African Aid Study Group" consisting of experienced people and experts to examine the orientation of Japan's aid to Africa. In the report of this group, issued in February 1991, the importance of aid to the setting of basic development plans, aid to the promotion of regional cooperation and aid through projects of an appropriate scale were indicated and the following fields were proposed as fields of general importance:

- (1) Rural development
- (2) Nurturing of small and medium scale enterprises
- (3) Development of agricultural products and processed products to diversify exports
- (4) Improvement of the commercial distribution system
- (5) Provision of social and economic infrastructure
- (6) Human resources development
- (7) Health, medical care and population
- (8) Conservation of the natural environment

In order to gain an accurate understanding of the development needs of African countries, about which there is generally a lack of information, and to give effective aid, JICA established a "Southern Africa Aid Study Group" consisting of experienced people and experts and prepared proposals for Japan's long and medium term engagement with the priority development sectors of this region. In 1994, "Country-specific Aid Study Groups" were set up to deal with Ghana and Senegal and these are making proposals for future cooperation with these countries.

To produce fruitful results

When giving aid to Africa, it is important to take into account linkages between grant aid and technical cooperation, the difficulties of meeting local costs and WID. At the same time, the economic structural adjustment implemented by many countries under the direction of the IMF and the World Bank has involved a diminution of the function of the public sector, an increase in the unemployment due to reductions in public servants, and reductions in public services, which, although only transitory effects of the first stages of economic structural adjustment, impact on the weaker members of society and it is thus necessary that the cooperation carried out should take account of these social aspects.

In order that aid may be given more effectively and efficiently in the future, in Africa and elsewhere, it will be even more important for industrialized countries and international organizations to work in concert.

In order to engage with problems, such as the environment, population and AIDS, where effective outcomes cannot be expected by a single-nation approach and which require cooperation on a global scale, Japan and the United States agreed, at the Japan-U.S. Economic Framework Consultation to cooperate actively in these fields. As part of this, it was agreed by the governments of Japan and the U.S. that Kenya and Ghana should be priority countries for Japan-U.S. joint cooperation in the fields of population and AIDS and JICA has worked to identify and formulate specific projects for the joint cooperation by the dispatch of project formulation specialists to Kenya.

In Uganda, JICA is working with France in bringing AIDS information and education to the people. Further possibilities for joint work and cooperation in the African region are being examined, based on mutual learning of aid methods and know-how with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) of the United Kingdom.

Tanzania: The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers making the new capital greener

.....A cooperative project to make the city greener

●●

A project since 1986

With a cry of "Tuwendel (let's go)", we and our Tanzanian counterparts straddle our motor bikes and scatter to the work sites. The noise of the bikes echoes through the dry air. Another day has started for the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).

Dodoma, Tanzania. A new capital is being constructed before our eyes. With the increase in population, the present capital Dar-es-Salaam is becoming progressively less able to cope and the capital is to be moved to Dodoma.

The work involved in moving the capital has been undertaken by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) which is also promoting work to provide an urban environment as part of this. The "greening" project by the JOCV was carried out to assist this urban environment work for 6 years from 1986 and cooperation began again in 1993 for a further six years.

Dodoma is located almost at the centre of the country in a dry region with an annual rainfall of only 550 mm. It is said that there used to be a large forest here in the past but urbanization and population concentration, commercial felling and use of timber for firewood and construction, grazing of livestock and use of land for arable agriculture have meant environmental destruction for the people whose whole livelihood had depended on the forest.

●●

Creation of the green belt and popularization programs

The main objectives of the project were to create a green belt around the environmentally degraded city of Dodoma, thus recreating the forest, and to increase understanding of this in the surrounding villages. More than thirty JOCV volunteers have been dispatched over the years.

In the programs to create the green belt, the aim is to preserve and manage twenty thousand hectares of green belt, which will play a future role of an urban environmental



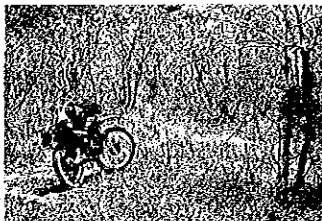
Saplings being brought to the planting site in late December, at the start of the rainy season.

forest, and thus to restore the rapidly dwindling forests and soil around the city. Currently sixteen thousand hectares have been placed under management, the natural forest is being preserved and more than a thousand hectares of forest is being planted.

With budget constraints in addition to the conditions of intense aridity, the results cannot be described as completely satisfactory. However, the green belt forest shows better signs of recovery than the surrounding regions where development is progressing.

The public relations working the surrounding villages, another major part of the programs, is intended to gain understanding for CDA activities, to solve problems which occur with the local people and to raise the local people's standard of living by popularizing techniques such as agroforestry.*

There are many kinds of routine programs including giving technical guidance on tree growing and



A green belt forest in the dry season.

vegetable and fruit cultivation, selling saplings, holding movie shows for local people, schools and clinics and holding meetings in villages.

CDA is also building gardens in factories and schools to make the urban environment greener and has the largest nursery gardens in the country as well as transport which supports the activities of all departments. JOCV volunteers have also been posted to these departments and are active there.

The project term of twelve years is short if viewed in the context of the production cycles of forestry and agriculture. This is all the more true in that there are only three years left. Although this is a field where results are not easily seen, we continue to ask ourselves what we can do and how best to achieve technology transfer as we work at the sites.

(Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer)

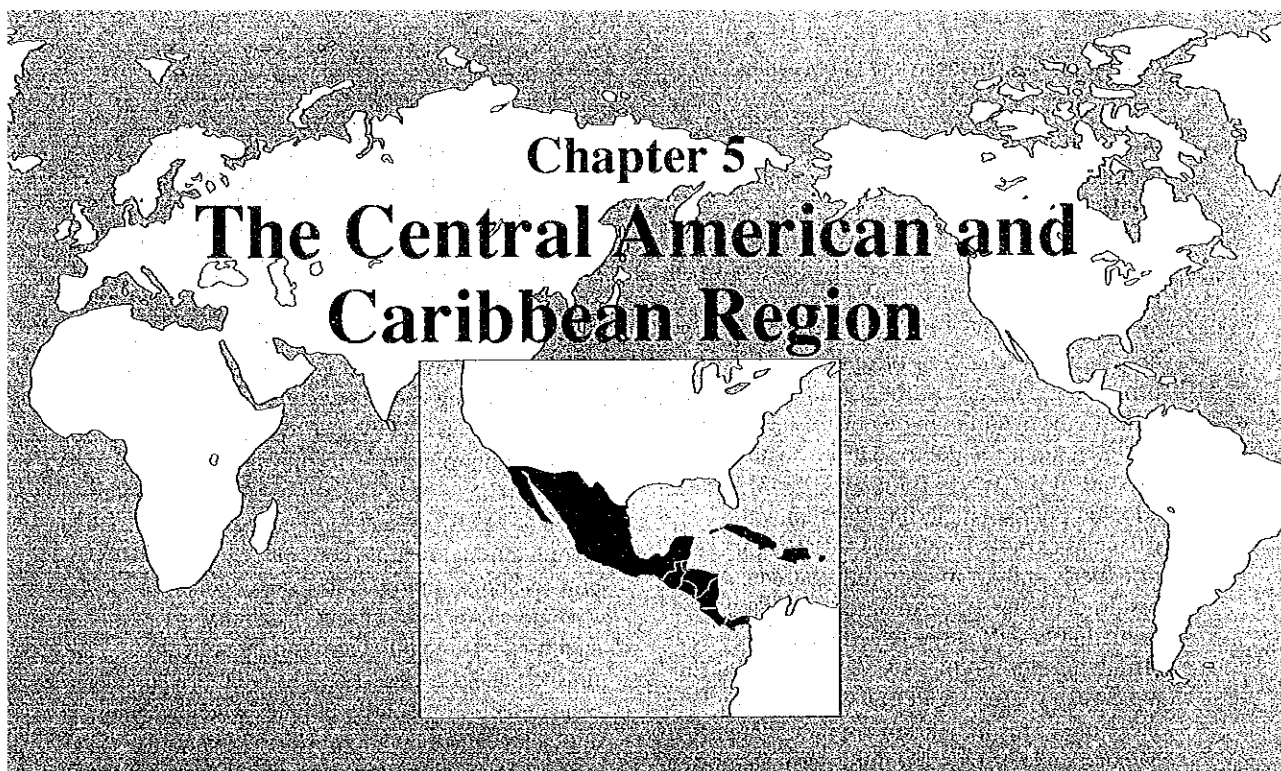
Cooperative project to make the city greener

A plan to promote reforestation in conjunction with the local residents with the objectives of preserving the local people's living environment, ensuring a production base and preventing desertification. This began in Tanzania and Senegal in 1986, mainly promoted by the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and is planned to spread to Asian and Latin American regions in the future.

*Agroforestry: a complex use of land involving an organic combination of forestry and agriculture

Many African countries are also threatened with desertification. Japan, which signed the Desertification Treaty in 1994, has announced that it will join other advanced countries in giving assistance to developing countries engaged with the problems of preventing desertification. Following this basic policy, JICA has dispatched project formulation specialists to the OECD "Sahara Club", which researches and coordinates the approach to anti-desertification strategies by both developed donor countries and recipient countries.

The coordination between advanced countries and aid organizations is especially effective in regions like Africa where Japan's aid experience and know-how are relatively shallow. It will therefore be necessary to promote this kind of cooperation actively in the future.



A region of comparatively high income countries

There are 21 countries in the Central American and Caribbean region. They include some developing countries of relatively high incomes which are characterized as "semi-developed" countries. It has an area of 2.96 million square kilometers, 2.18% of the total global surface, and a population of 147 million, 2.8% of that of the world.

With its rich natural resources, this region has a wealth of primary products but, except for Mexico, secondary and tertiary industry lag behind. Economically, many of the countries face the problem of accumulated debt and are in the process of reconstruction.

The 21 countries consist of eight Central American nations, and thirteen Caribbean nations. Many of the countries in the region are small; there are eight countries with an area of ten thousand square kilometers or less and nine with a population of less than half a million.

The income levels of the countries in 1993 show three low-income countries, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua, with a per capita

GNP of less than 750 dollars, and four lower-middle income countries, where the figure is between 750 and 1,500 dollars. The others, including the Bahamas and Barbados where the figure is above 5,000 dollars, are upper-middle income countries.

Many of the countries depend on tourism in addition to primary production.

An opportunity to develop democracy and improve public welfare

There was a succession of military regimes in this region in the 1960s. The civil strife in Central America, which began with the El Salvador and Nicaragua civil wars and lasted more than ten years from the late Seventies, brought ruination to the lands and devastation to the economies of the countries involved. From the beginning of the eighties, there has been an eventual transfer to democratic rule and all the countries of the region, with the exception of Cuba, are now under democratic government.

Due to the long years of political and economic turbulence, however, the social infrastructure of many of the countries are not

yet in place and cooperation with other countries will be vital to overcome these inefficiencies and achieve economic independence. The Central American and Caribbean nations are currently faced with an opportunity to develop complete democracy and improve public welfare and, economically, many of the countries are promoting policies of liberalization.

As to the accumulated debts of the nations of this region, the debtor nations, with the support of the World Bank and the IMF, have adopted policies including the removal of financial deficits, control of inflation, increase of exports and promotion of free trade. As a result, there has been an agreement on debt reduction based on the new debt strategy (Brady proposals) of 1992. The results of this have already been seen in the countries where these measures have been applied, that is Mexico and Costa Rica. Long-term support, such as debt rescheduling, has also been given by creditor nations, international organizations and private banks through the Club of Paris (the conference of principal creditor nations).

Japanese cooperation with the Central American and Caribbean region

\$411 million, or 4.3%, of total Japanese bilateral aid, was given to this region in 1994. The income of the Central American and Caribbean nations is relatively high compared to other regions and there are relatively few recipients of grant aid. Also, as many of the countries who have received yen loans have long-term debts and are the subject of debt rescheduling, the amount of ODA to this region fell from 1983. As the Central American conflicts draw to an end, however, there has been an increased demand for capital in order to restore the economies of the countries and yen loans have increased since 1990 so that the declining trend in ODA has come to an end.

Details of Japanese bilateral ODA to the countries of the Central American and Caribbean region in 1994 are as follows. It consisted of \$203 million (49%) of yen loans, \$93 million (23%) in grant aid and \$116 million (28%) in technical cooperation.

Most of the yen loans involved economic infrastructure including transportation and energy and social infrastructure such as environmental work and grant aid was used in social infrastructure projects such as health care and education and economic infrastructure such as transportation.

Technical cooperation is carried out in all forms including acceptance of participants for training, dispatch of experts, development studies and project-type technical cooperation. The main areas of cooperation, based on a wide range of needs, are agriculture, health care, manufacturing, fishing, communications and broadcasting, mining, culture and education.

There are factors causing instability in those countries where civil war has only recently finished and it is necessary to give thorough consideration to security policies when carrying out technical cooperation in such countries.

Since the nations of the Caribbean include many which are small in population and area, with a short history of independence, a relatively high income level and small-scale economy, there has been little Japanese cooperation. However the expectation of the Caribbean nations of cooperation with Japan has increased year by year and it will be necessary to examine appropriate cooperation of the economic scale of these countries.

Cooperation with Mexico, the largest nation in the region

Mexico, the country with largest area and population in the Central American region, has shown a solid improvement in its position in the international community, by the effectuation of the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) in January 1994 and its affiliation to the OECD in May 1994. Japan has provided active aid to the development of the country, principally through technical cooperation and yen loans.

Seen from the perspective of effective implementation of cooperation with the countries of Central America, it is considered that it will be effective to carry out cooperation centered on Mexico, the largest country in the region, where Third-Country Training is currently carried out.

Mexico: training the television broadcasting staff who provide one part of education

.....The Educational Television Training Center Project

Training at the Center.



●● Questioning the true nature of technology transfer

In Mexico, in addition to the regular middle schools and technical colleges, there are also 10,800 television middle schools with 610 thousand students. This system, which began 26 years ago, teaches through television programs, prepared by the Educational Program Production Bureau of the Ministry of Education, thus making up for the teacher shortage. This system has spread throughout the country making it possible for Mexico to make middle school education compulsory in September 1993.

Some years ago the government passed the "12.5% Law" which stipulates that 12.5% of all broadcast time, including that of private stations, must be devoted to educational, cultural and government information programs.

The Educational Television Training Center was set up in 1991 with the aim of improving the relatively poor capabilities to produce educational programs through technological transfer by Japanese experts. 51 Mexican staff, comprising a director, nine counterparts, plus administrators, cameramen and other operators and general staff work at the Center.

Each expert instructs his counterpart through direct discussion but as the counterparts have completed the training provided by the Educational Program Production Bureau of the Ministry of Education, the Training Center has, since last year invited employees of external companies for training in the broadcasting field (production companies, commercial broadcasting stations, the publicity departments of companies etc) and instruction is given by the counterparts and the fees collected. This meant that some basic problems of technology transfer had to be directly addressed.

One of these problems is whether a person who is in the middle of receiving technological transfer is capable of teaching people outside. The second is whether the basic role of the expert should be to instruct his counterpart and operators in the Center to professional standards.

●● An appeal at a joint committee

At a Japan-Mexico joint committee meeting held in November 1994 to decide the basic policy for 1995, the Mexican side requested an increase in the fees taken from outside organizations while the Japanese side, hoping to solve the problems noted above, asserted that the main aim was to improve the technical standards of the Center's staff. The Japanese experts reported on the attitude of the Mexican staff to program production and indicated the problems involved. The Japanese side also questioned what the benefit of a fee rise would be if these problems were not solved.

The Television Production Bureau answered with a request for a general discussion on what was expected of the Mexican side in technological transfer and the immediate implementation of a policy of improving technical abilities.

●● Change in staff awareness

The Japanese experts immediately entered into several days of general discussion with the Mexican staff and talked late into the night with the operators.

As such contacts built up, the Mexican side began to talk freely with the Japanese experts and when a short-term expert in youth programs was due to come to Mexico in January 1995, the Mexican staff made the very positive proposal that, before he came, a play should be produced by the Center staff to polish their skills and that a course should be held for the Center staff

alone and the Japanese experts were asked for their guidance.

They began the production of a small play early in the new year and, by the general assent of the staff, the Director, a former producer, requested that he should be allowed to make this program.

Making a program is like the performance of an orchestra. Each player concentrates on his own part under the direction of the conductor (or director). As the staff watched the play, which was completed after a long series of late nights, their expressions were full of satisfaction and the determination to continue in this way in the future.

(JICA Dispatched Expert)

▼ Educational Television Training Center Project

Project-type technical cooperation for training the production staff of the Educational Program Production Bureau of the Mexican Ministry of Education and private production organizations. The cooperation period is from April 1991 to March 1996.

JICA's main forms of cooperation, which began in 1994, include the "Study on Creating Investment Strategies to Promote Tourism" (a development study) to gain foreign currency for the country; the "Training Project for Agricultural Modernization" (project-type technical cooperation) to modernize the agricultural sector; and the "National Center for Environmental Research and Training" (project-type technical cooperation) to produce policies for the environment, a long-pending problem for development.

Countries aiming at recovery from the devastations of civil war

El Salvador and Nicaragua are now at a time of recovery from the ravages of prolonged civil war and, in order to support the democratization and economic reform of these countries, Japan dispatched a general economic cooperation study team in December 1994 to hold policy discussions with the recipient governments in both countries.

It was agreed that the priority areas should be fields related to the stimulation of the production sectors (economic infrastructure etc), social development and the environment in El Salvador and the field of social development and anti-poverty measures, social and economic infrastructure and the environment in Nicaragua. In the future, JICA will actively identify, formulate and implement outstanding projects in these fields.

One representative example of Japanese cooperation in Costa Rica, which is the country in the region with the most stable and established democracy and which has a high standard of education as well as a social security system, is the "Technical Instructor Personnel Training Center for Industrial Development of Central America". The effects of this technical cooperation are intended both to stimulate the economy of Costa Rica and also to spread throughout the region.

It is planned to dispatch as part of Japan-U.S. joint cooperation, a project-formulation study team to Guatemala in 1995 to examine the possibilities and direction of cooperation in the fields of primary education and girls' education.

Honduras is a country which ranks with Nicaragua and Haiti in its developmental backwardness and development needs and where Japanese cooperation is being carried out in a large number of sectors. These include a cumulative total of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers which is the largest in the countries of Central America and "the Study on the Strategies and Plans for the Upgrading of Health Status", the first attempt in the world to carry out a development study in the field of health care.

Panama is the foremost destination for Japanese exports in Central and South America, taking more than a quarter of all exports to this region. Also the stability of this country, which has within it the Panama Canal, is of a very great significance for the stability of the world. Japanese aid is carried out in a variety of forms and in recent years the development study "Tourism Development in the Coastal Area (Master Plan)" is being carried out for two years from 1993 in tourism, a field with a considerable future, as one means of the country obtaining foreign currency.

Jamaica, the central country in the Caribbean, has developed a closer relationship with Japan over the years and is the recipient of yen loan cooperation and technical cooperation. In 1994 basic studies were also carried out for two project-type technical cooperation projects "The Project for Improving Technical High School Vocational Education" and "Community Health".

Many of the countries in the Central American and Caribbean region are small and, when Japan carries out cooperation, it is effective to carry out the kind of projects (such as Third-Country Training and project-type technical cooperation connected to this) that will bring benefits not only to the recipient country but also to the neighbouring countries of the region and it will be necessary to identify, formulate and implement these in the future.

The most recent trends in the region include the return to Haiti of the exiled President Aristide and a move towards democratic rule and the support by USA and other western

Honduras: The results of increasingly promising mini-projects

.....Trujillo Coastal Fishing Village Modernization Project

●● Towards the modernization of the bay's fishing villages

It was at a farewell party in the village of San Antonio ...

"It was because of you that I was able to study with my friends at the junior school. Thank you."

The children who said this were from the fishing family who lived the most poverty-stricken life of this impoverished fishing people.

Hearing these words, I could no longer hold back my tears.

The impoverished and harsh living conditions of the fishing people when I had come to work here, the difficulties of the job, the enjoyment I had experienced when I had joined the people in village events ...

My memories swirling in my mind, I felt the joy of the fishing people as my own and meditated on my own sense of satisfaction that I had been able to take part in this cooperation.

The development of the fishing industry in the fishing villages of the Trujillo bay lags behind that of the other parts of Honduras and the lives of the fishing community are impoverished. Because of this, there is a pressing need to promote modernization of the coastal fishing villages, improve the living standards of the fishing people and stimulate the local economy.

The "mini-project" technical cooperation*, which began in July 1991, and continued for three years with the Ministry of Natural Resources, involved the dispatch of experts, the provision of equipment and materials and the acceptance of participants for training.

About seven tenths of the people of this area are Garifna, of West African descent, and they keep their distinctive language, culture and customs as part of their life. I became close to them in a natural way. I was accepted by a group which introduced me to the traditional Garifna dances and I made more friends in a most enjoyable way. The moral support of the local people is

vital to cooperation carried out in a region and I tried to deepen the relationship of trust by taking an active part in village events.

●● Trying to change life attitudes

The basic aims of the project were to become self-sufficient in food and to become independent before the end of the cooperation.

When organizing the fishing people, the local traditional society was taken into account and they were organized into fishing groups of between three and five people rather than fishing cooperatives. The groups, and the groups leaders, were chosen by the fishing people.

As the people traditionally lived on a day-by-day basis, thorough instruction was given on "Household Management for Fishing People" and they were persuaded to take up saving. Bank accounts were opened in the names of the fishing groups and it was recommended that they saved 15% of their takings in accounts.

A change in life attitudes was necessary to acquire the habit of saving, but the fishing people tried hard to save independently. The savings went towards the maintenance costs of outboard motors for their boats, the purchase of fishing equipment and emergency expenditure (for medical treatment, education etc.).

Health care and education were not within our remit but any surplus in the household budget meant that they could pay for medical treatment without anxiety and compulsory education attendance reached 100%.

From considerations for independence, each part of the project (workshops, small fishing training vessels, ice making and sales, fish marketing, manufacturing and processing) was separated into operating units with an emphasis on profitability. Each of these units opened a bank account and a self-management system was established, which continues to this day.

In Casteija village, a combined fish market and meeting hall is being constructed to stimulate fishing as a joint project by all groups and is being financed by all fishing people and families.

At the completion of the cooperation period a final evaluation was held with the theme of "the impact of mini-projects on regional society". At this evaluation this example of mini-project cooperation gained a good reputation and the Honduran government is preparing a fishing development plan which will expand fishing modernization, modeled on these mini-projects, throughout Honduras.

(JICA Dispatched Expert)



Trujillo Coastal Fishing Village Modernization Project

Using this area to set up a model fishing village, general fishing techniques were disseminated throughout the villages with the aim of stimulating the area and improving the living standards of the fishing people. Experts were dispatched and participants accepted for training as necessary.

* "Mini-project" technical cooperation: a form of cooperation which lies between the dispatch of individual experts and project based technical cooperation. The average period of cooperation is for 3 years and the cooperation involves the provision of equipment and the acceptance of participants for training.

Chapter 5 The Central American and Caribbean Region

nations for this democratization. Similarly, Japan will dispatch a project-formulation study team in March 1995 and, since October 1994, it has consulted on the future directions of cooperation and worked in other ways to support the country's democratization.

Panama: Using resources in developing processed fish products

.....A project for improving marine product distribution system

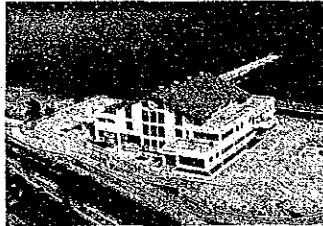
●● In the vicinity of the Panama Canal

A fish market, looking fresh in its colours of silver and white, stands at the entrance to an old section of the city, on the seaside road of Panama City, with its view of ships awaiting passage through the canal.

This building, constructed with Japanese grant aid for fisheries, opened on 15 February 1995. This facility is meant to provide a domestic distribution network for seafood, to improve distribution and stimulate the small coastal fishing industry.

In size, this seafood market has one wholesale market hall (area 245 square metres), a retail market hall (1871 square metres), a landing jetty, refrigerators, ice-making equipment and other peripheral equipment. Within the market, improvements include 69 retail stalls, twice as many as in the old market, a customer car park and security staff and it is expected that fish consumption will increase.

In fact, the range of customers coming to the market has increased since the market was opened and one important challenge for the market is to make these into regular customers and increase its ability to attract



The Panama City Fish Market.

trade. Specifically, this may include ideas by the fish sellers themselves, regular events, discounts before the market closes and sales of processed foods and advertising, all with the aim of making fish more popular.

If this results in increased distribution, this will be linked to a stimulation of the activities of the fishing people, improvements in distribution and a steady income for the people involved in the fishing industry. The consumers in the metropolitan area will also benefit from a supply of inexpensive and high-quality sea food.

●● Japanese fried fish balls appear in Panama

Unfortunately, in Panama, where shrimp trawling is common, the fish caught at the same time are discarded as being unsuitable for the distribution outlets.

The Ocean Resources Department of Panama is cooperating with JICA

to begin a project to use these fish, with the objectives of improving the antiquated fishing techniques of Panama, increasing demand for sea food and using the ocean resources effectively.

An expert (in improving seafood distribution) and a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (for seafood processing) are currently teaching seafood processing to six women with no experience of this work. This form of technology transfer is progressing steadily.

In that this will improve the nutritional life of the people by providing an excellent source of protein, and in the context of aid to the activities of local women's organizations, the target of making this into a viable business is an important one.

When the fish market was opened, a shop which makes and sells Satsuma fish balls, albeit on a small scale, was opened inside it.

Perhaps because the consumers had little opportunity to come into direct contact with a place which made processed fish products, or the products themselves, the fried fish balls have gained a good reputation and it is hoped that a range of processed foods will be developed and sales will be steady and reliable.

It is hoped that in the future, Panama fish balls will replace Satsuma fish balls.

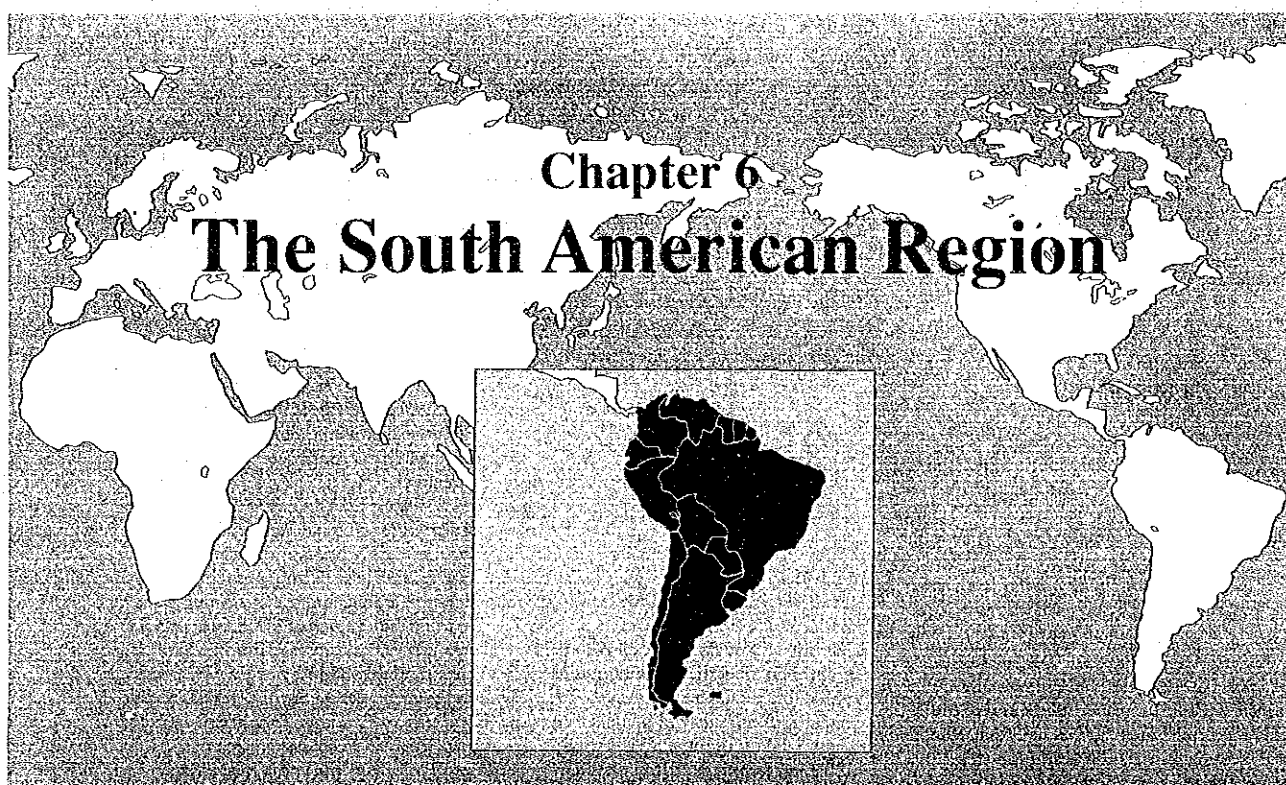
(JICA Panama Office)



Tasting fish paste products at the completion ceremony of the fish market (The Minister of Trade and Technology, in white, and members of the Women's Association explain the products to the President (center)).

Project to improve marine product distribution system

Grant aid cooperation with objectives of effectively using ocean resources, increasing demand for seafood and improving seafood processing technology.



A region of many large and medium-sized countries

The South American region, which consists of twelve countries, has an area of 17.72 million square kilometres, approximately 13% of the total global surface, and a population of 310 million, approximately 6% of that of the world. There are many large and medium-sized countries and it is characterized by large territories and a wealth of natural and human resources.

Japanese immigrants have lived in this region for many years and Japanese immigrants, people of Japanese descent and resident Japanese citizens currently live in Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia. Since Japan established diplomatic relations with Peru in 1873, a close relationship has been maintained with this region, with a constant exchange of prominent people and the establishment of branches of Japanese firms.

There has been a succession of military regimes in South America since the 1960s, but moves towards democratic rule began in the early Eighties and democratic systems have begun in all of the countries of the region. But,

as is evident from the abortive coup d'état in Venezuela in 1992 and the emergency measures, including suspension of the constitution, taken in Peru, this is not necessarily firmly based and there is a need for further efforts to establish democracy.

Towards debt reduction and economic independence

The countries of South America, which include relatively industrialized countries such as Brazil and Argentina and which have relatively high income levels, are generally regarded as middle-income developing countries. However, with some exceptions, they have a poorly established social and economic infrastructure due to long-lasting political and economic turbulence, and they will find it difficult to achieve economic independence without cooperation from other countries.

Furthermore, those countries which borrowed capital from the developed countries and financial institutions (mainly private banks) to promote rapid modernization have suffered from a negative balance of payments due to the prices of primary products falling and international interest rate rises and they are

now finding it difficult to repay these loans. They have therefore been confronted with many economic difficulties throughout the Eighties.

It was in these circumstances that a debt reduction agreement based on the new debt strategy (the Brady Plan) was agreed in almost all of the debtor nations and, under the guidance of the World Bank and the IMF, they have put into effect structural adjustment policies including economic structural adjustment which included reducing the role of government, restraining inflation, reforming the taxation system, reforming fiscal policy and nationalized industries and moving to a system of free trade, thus making self-help efforts to reduce debt.

Movement towards a South American common market and economic union

From the beginning of the 1990s, there has been increased movement towards economic integration. One representative example of the trend is the South American common market MERCOSUR (an alliance of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). In addition, some countries such as Chile have shown a more active movement towards joining NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) and APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation).

The countries characterized as middle-income countries, such as Argentina, Brazil and Chile, are moving towards a role as donor countries in the South and Central American region.

In South America, there is an urgent need for environmental measures to counter the environmental problems which have accompanied rapid economic growth. Air pollution in Santiago, Chile and forest destruction and river pollution in the Amazon basin are both serious problems. JICA's cooperation has been requested for measures to tackle both of these problems.

The drugs problem is just as serious as the environmental problems. This problem, which is linked to terrorism and the black economy, is a factor which hinders the sound social and economic development of the economies of the

South American countries. The drugs problem is said to be a cause of the impoverishment of rural and mountain areas and income differentials within society, and it is necessary to make efforts to solve this problem in the context of regional development policies.

Japanese cooperation with South America

In 1994, \$412 million of Japanese bilateral aid, 4.3% of the total, was given to the South American region. Since there are few countries which qualify for grant aid, and many of the countries which qualify for yen loans are suffering from chronic debt and are rescheduling their loans, bilateral ODA decreased after 1983. In recent years, however, the mechanisms for accepting yen loans was improved by financial measures such as debt rescheduling by the Club of Paris (an association of the main creditor countries), the decline in total ODA has stopped.

Yen loans are used mainly in the fields of agriculture and economic infrastructure, such as transport, energy, communications and broadcasting, the total for which amounted in 1994 to 26% of the total ODA to South America.

Grant aid was mainly directed to the fields of agriculture, health care and social infrastructure. South America has a close relationship with Japan through the fishing industry, and also has many important cultural legacies, so there is much cooperation in the fields of fishing and culture. In 1994, the ODA directed to South America amounted to 23% of the total ODA.

There is a great need for technical cooperation in this region and the reception conditions, such as a good capability of absorbing technology, and there is active technical cooperation in all fields. The main fields of cooperation are agriculture, transportation, health care, communications and broadcasting, mining and manufacturing, human resources development and culture. The proportion of Japanese technical cooperation performed in this region is approximately 7.3%, next in size to the Asian region. 51% of the total ODA to South America is technical cooperation. In recent years there has been a

tendency towards an increase in cooperation in fields connected to foreign currency acquisition such as promotion of exports and the field of the environment.

Security problems are important considerations for JICA when operating in this region, as highlighted by the murder of three Japanese experts in Peru by a terrorist group in July 1991. It is necessary for thorough account be taken of the maxim "safety first" when carrying out technical cooperation.

Topics of JICA cooperation with South American countries

The main topics of JICA cooperation with South American countries in 1994 were as follows. In 1994, confirmation studies were carried out in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay and consultations were held with the recipient governments on the priority fields for development and aid.

Argentina has one of the highest income levels of the countries of South America and already possesses high technology. The JICA cooperation which began in 1994 includes the project-type technical cooperation projects "Plant Virus Research" and the "Assessment and Monitoring of Fisheries Resources". A full-scale development study of "Economic Development Phase II" has also begun, with the objective of providing policy advice for the future development of the Argentinean economy through, for instance, direct investment and encouragement of exports.

Taking into account the importance of Brazil in the South American region and the presence of the largest overseas community of people of Japanese descent in the world, Japan has cooperated actively with this country, mainly through technical cooperation and yen loans. In technical cooperation, in particular, Brazil is the largest recipient in the region, on an expenditure basis.

JICA cooperation to Brazil in recent years has been in wide range of fields. In 1994, the project-type technical cooperation, the "Public Health Development Project for the North-East Brazil in Pernambuco" was carried out with the objective of contributing to the development of Northeast Brazil, one of the

most important topics for Brazil's development from the viewpoint of redressing regional disparities and eradicating poverty, and a project formulation study was carried out to examine the future direction of cooperation and identify and formulate outstanding projects.

Bolivia is one of the poorest counties in Central and South America. Taking into account the relationship between the two countries generated by the presence of a large community of Japanese descent, Japan has carried out all forms of cooperation with this country. The main examples started in 1994 and included the project-type technical cooperation, the "Health and Medical Care Delivery System" in Santa Cruz and the development study the "Master Plan on Flood Control in the Northern Rural Region of Santa Cruz". The priority fields for future development and aid discussed by a project confirmation study team and members of the Bolivian government were improvements in human resources development and provision of various institutions to correct regional imbalances.

The main topic for the development plans of Ecuador is to escape from being an oil-dependent economy. In order to do this, in 1994 JICA dispatched a project-formulation study team to examine the possibilities and directions of Japanese cooperation in agriculture, a non-oil field which is to take priority for development.

Chile has relatively high income levels and JICA mainly extends technical cooperation to Chile. Recently the priority for aid to Chile has shifted to the environmental field and JICA programs in 1994 included the development study "Master Plan on Industrial Solid Waste Management in the Metropolitan Region". It is also planned to begin project-type technical cooperation on "the National Center for the Environment" from 1995. The priority fields for future development and aid discussed by a project confirmation study team and members of the Chilean government were strengthening administrative systems for environmental measures, improvements in quality and productivity to make industries more

Brazil: Human resources development, the hope of Brazil's industry

.....SENAI/SP Manufacturing Automation Center

●● The time when Japan received aid

Fifty years ago, immediately after the end of the Second World War, I was still a primary school pupil. The yard of the school I attended had been ploughed up and more than half of it was under crops. It was a time when everyone faced severe food shortages. At lunch time, I hunched over my poor packed lunch to hide it with my arms and head from the eyes of the teacher.

When I moved on to junior school there was shortage of classrooms and the gymnasium was partitioned into eight to make up for this shortage. The sounds from the neighbouring rooms were clearly audible. The text books were printed on cheap paper and were not bound. There was a shortage of teachers and the shortfall was made up, rather noticeably, by substitute teachers who had barely graduated from high school.

At this time, Japan received food aid from all over the world and we children managed to survive this period of hunger. It was not only food that was lacking; there were shortages of all material goods and there was constant thieving.

The Japanese worked through this towards recovery. Today's prosperity in Japan is not only because of our efforts but also because of aid from other countries after the war and the fact that the people of the world have bought the products, technologies and know-how that we have created. It is thanks to the people of the world that Japan is as it is today.

It was in a spirit of gratitude that we seven experts dispatched by JICA undertook, along with the people of the country, the technical education of young people in Brazil, the country which has long taken in the greatest number of Japanese immigrants.

●● The education of mainstay technicians

In this project-type technical cooperation, a request was received from Brazilian industry for the education of mainstay technicians capable of coping with high technology manufacturing methods. After careful examination and consultation by the two nations, this started in 1990. The organization which was the subject of the cooperation was the National Industrial Vocational Training Organization Sao Paulo Bureau (SENAI/SP). This is an organization which trains the technicians who underpin Brazilian industry.

The content of the cooperation was the basic technology of the leading-edge manufacturing system known as manufacturing automation. These are fields in which Japan has strengths: CAD/CAM (computer-aided design / computer aided manufacture), CNC (computerized numerical control) and FMS (flexible manufacturing systems).

This "Human Resources Development Cooperation", which started in 1990 for a planned five years, was completed in 1994. During this time, ten long-term (more than two years) experts and thirty short-term experts were dispatched.

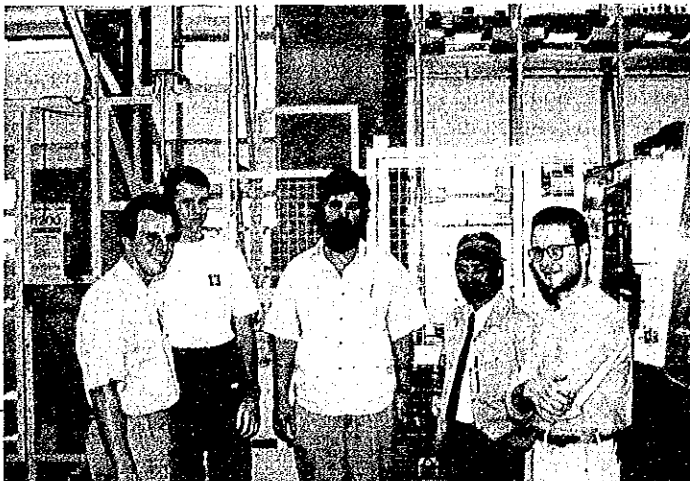
More than twenty staff and teachers were sent to Japan for training. Happily, they were enthusiastic about Japan when they returned.

The graduates of the Center were highly prized by the firms in which they went to work and we were delighted by the results of our long-term efforts with our Brazilian colleagues. The Center was chosen as the SENAI's national technological center for mechatronics and as the technological information center of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Now it has developed into one of the few junior college level technical training organizations and the trust and friendship between Japan and Brazil has deepened.

The idea that the personality of a country is defined by the way in which it can help other countries has become ever more meaningful.
(JICA Dispatched Expert)

SENAI/SP Manufacturing Automation Center

The objective is to train technicians in coping with production systems using computer systems when these are introduced to improve productivity and quality. Training was carried out in the five fields relevant to this Center.



A Brazilian teacher, students and a Japanese Expert.

competitive internationally, anti-poverty measures mainly in the cities in the south and provision of economic and social infrastructures.

As in the case of Chile, Japan has mostly carried out technical cooperation with Colombia. The development study on "Urban Transport in Bogota" was begun in 1994. The priority fields for future development and aid discussed by a project confirmation study team and members of the Colombian government were environmental policies in all sectors, primary education, basic medicine and other parts of the social field and improvements in quality and productivity to make industries more competitive internationally.

Paraguay, like Bolivia, has a great need for aid and taking into account the relationship between the two countries generated by the presence of a large community of Japanese descent, Japan has carried out all forms of cooperation with this country. With regard to technical cooperation, Paraguay was the second largest country, after Brazil, to receive aid in the Central and South American region for 1994 on an expenditure basis. Main forms of cooperation started by JICA in 1994 included the project-type technical cooperation "The Community Health Project" and "The Rural Development Project in the Region South of Pilar". The priority fields for future development and aid discussed by a project confirmation study team and members of the Paraguayan government were health and medicine, education and other aspects of social development, increased productivity in all industries, concern for the environment to ensure sustainable development and the provision of economic and social infrastructures.

Peru, like Paraguay and Bolivia, has a great need for aid and, taking into account the relationship between the two countries generated by the presence of a large community of Japanese descent, Japan has carried out all forms of cooperation with this country. Since July 1991, when three JICA experts were murdered, no cooperation involving the long-term dispatch of experts has

been carried out, and cooperation has centered on the acceptance of participants for training and the provision of equipment and materials. The priority fields for future development and aid discussed by a project confirmation study team and members of the Peruvian government were active aid of the poorer social strata by improvements in education and basic medical treatment, personnel training and the provision of various institutions for environmental policies and provision of economic and social infrastructures.

With its high income level, Uruguay has mostly been the recipient of technical cooperation from Japan. The cooperation begun by JICA in 1994 has included the project-type technical cooperation "the Fruit Tree Protection Project". The priority fields for future development and aid discussed by a project confirmation study team and members of the Uruguayan government were, in the agricultural field, improvements in productivity and quality, environmental policies, a policy for small and medium scale enterprises to improve productivity and quality and to promote exports, as well as anti-cancer policies and other parts of the medical sector.

Chile: tackling the restoration of a ruined mountain with local participation

.....The erosion control and afforestation project in watersheds of a semi-arid area

●● A devastated semi-arid hill region

The hill region to the north of Santiago, the Chilean capital, is an area of very little rain, with an annual rainfall of less than 400mm. There is no rain fall at all for seven months of the year and, in addition, the soil is weathered quartz granite which is very friable.

The people cut the brush wood which grows on the sides and tops of these hills to use as firewood and charcoal. They then use the land for grazing or for the cultivation of wheat.

As a result of this, a large number of cracks in the soil and eroded gulleys have recently appeared, making not only agriculture but any form of making a living very difficult. The area affected stretches over about five hundred thousand hectares in a north-south direction.

If left alone, this area would rapidly increase. Indeed the present ruined land gives an impression of moving towards desertification, to become an extension of the Atacama desert to the north. The local people are poor and this is a problem which must be solved as a problem of democratic power.

The Forestry Corporation of Chile has some experience of bringing greenery back to such areas but there has been a tendency for this not to be a priority but to be carried out on an ad hoc basis.

JICA sent individual experts for two terms from 1987 and began a project-type technical cooperation at the request of the Chilean government in March 1993 for a planned five years.

Currently five experts on long-term postings and 21 workers of the Chilean Forestry Corporation are cooperating and are on the point of completing the afforestation and erosion control work on 17 hectares of minor river basins.



The semi-arid hill zone with the erosion control and afforestation project in progress.

●● The first locally-run "Soil Preservation Committee" in Chile

The final objective of the technical cooperation is to improve the lives of the local people. As most of the people in the area are small farmers, the afforestation and erosion control work is being carried out to improve water retention ability and preserve the soil and it is intended to perform this as a model project in which the people living in the river basin will participate.

In order to achieve this, problems in the fields of plant-raising, afforestation and erosion control had to be solved. For the raising of seedlings, the problems were to choose plant types capable of withstanding the local dry conditions and find methods of raising these and planting them out on the hills. For afforestation, the problems were to find a time when they could be planted out without irrigation, to find methods of retaining water around the roots and to prevent animal damage. Erosion control problems included how to restore the sides of the hills where cracking first occurs and to make effective use of water and soil through the use of low dams.

Actual tasks included construction of woods to act as wind breaks and water sources in order to provide shelter from wind and to retain water and prevent dryness; construction of woods for fodder and firewood on the

sides of the hills; and providing dams, agricultural terracing, fruit gardens and work roads

Discussions about the devastated valleys were held repeatedly with the technicians of the Forestry Corporation and the local farmers to produce a design for the afforestation and erosion control work so that these developments in agriculture, forestry and stock raising techniques could be moved forward together. Fortunately, the Guidance Department of the Agricultural Administration Bureau and NGOs have indicated that they will cooperate with this.

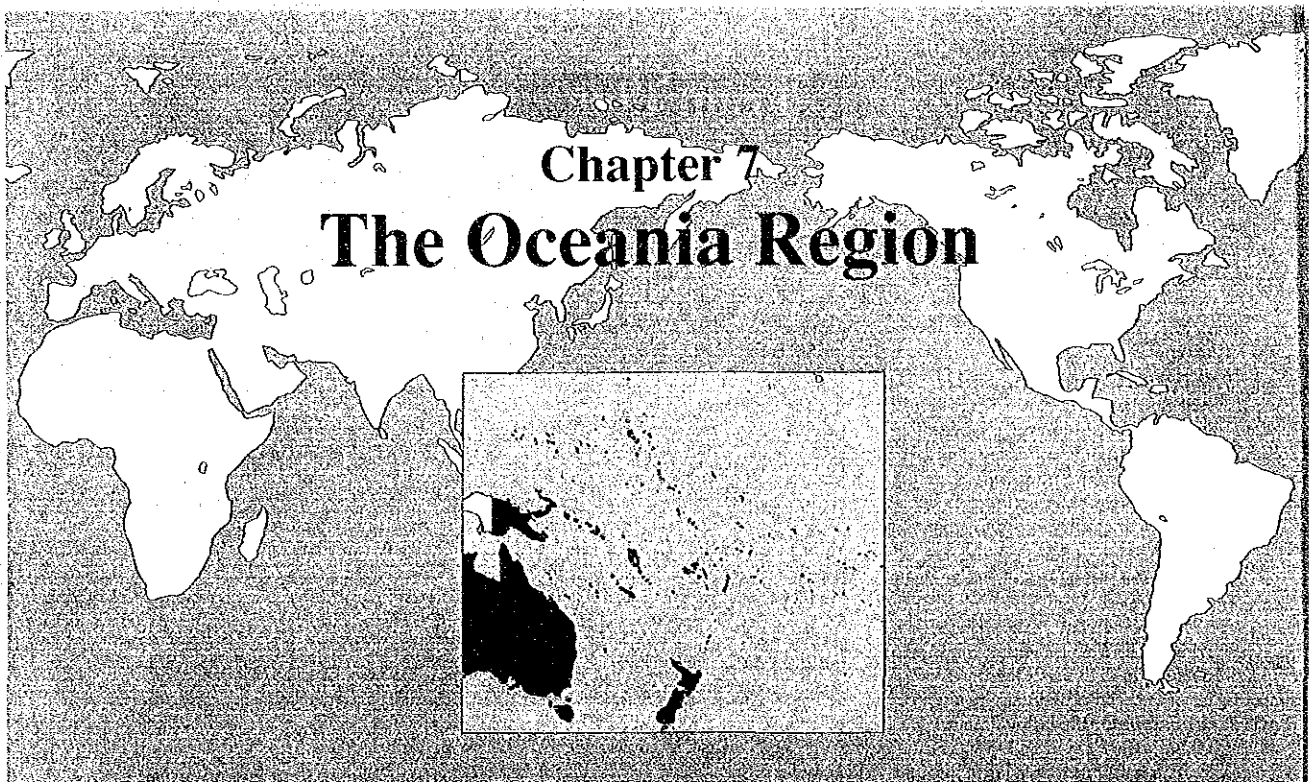
On 29 April 1993, Green Day in Japan, the first "Soil Preservation Committee" in Chile to be run by local people came into being, with the aid of the Forestry Corporation.

All the people involved are working so that it will be possible to achieve sustainable management of the basins.

(JICA Chile Office)

Erosion control and afforestation project in watersheds of a semi-arid area

Project-type cooperation in which techniques of carrying out reforestation and erosion prevention in a semi-arid area are developed in order to improve the environmental and livelihood bases of the local people. Activities include dispatch of experts, acceptance of participants for training and provision of equipment and materials.



Countries scattered over the Pacific and across the equator

The Oceania region, which covers a wide north-south area of the Pacific Ocean straddling the equator, includes Australia and New Zealand and twelve other independent island countries, dominions, trust territories and overseas possessions. The land area is no more than nine million square kilometers and 98% of this is made up by Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea.

The other island nations have a total land area of only 180 thousand square kilometers and each of them is a small country with a population of less than a million, with some, like Tuvalu and Nauru having a population of less than ten thousand.

Racially the area can be divided into Melanesians, Polynesians and Micronesians. The countries, which have had little experience of independence, have immature social structures and social environments full of diversity, with mixtures of traditional society and former colonial influences.

In Melanesia social groups are generally small, forming a comparatively equal and

mutually complementary social structure whereas in Polynesia and Micronesia society has social stratification based on a system of chieftains.

The per capita GNP, excluding Australia and New Zealand, ranges widely from ten thousand dollars in Nauru, which has phosphorus ore reserves, to \$650 in Tuvalu, which has no resources.

Sluggish economies and political stability

The Oceania region continues in economic recession, with the Australian economy in the doldrums and aid from donor countries and organizations struggling to increase from the beginning of the Nineties.

Politically, except for the problems involved in the secession and independence of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea, there is generally continuing stability. In the case of the Bougainville war too, efforts have been made to bring this to an end, including the dispatch by the South Pacific nations of a peace-keeping force to monitor the ceasefire.

The countries in this region are, with some exceptions, small nations without natural

resources. The economic structure tends to have a high dependence on primary production which is a fragile system easily affected by climate and variations in international prices. There are a number of problems that must be faced before economic independence is achieved given that the countries are divided into many islands and the domestic market is small in scale. Furthermore, they are also isolated from the international market and the means of communication and transport to make up for this are lacking.

The relationship with the former colonial powers is generally close but, with the decrease in aid, each of the countries has little choice but to reform their plans for economic development. On the other hand, the marked lack of human resources both for planning and implementation form a major obstruction to development.

Japanese cooperation with the Oceania region

Japanese cooperation with Oceania has mainly taken the form of dispatch of experts and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to train the personnel necessary for national development and training personnel in Japan. There has also been cooperation, mainly technical cooperation, in areas such as research into forestry and rice growing, provision of fishing ports, aquaculture designed to promote the development of fishing and agriculture, and the provision of basic infrastructure in order to meet BHN (basic human needs), such as schools, hospitals and water supply equipment.

The island countries of the Oceania region are small in terms of population and territory and they scattered in location so that it is essential to make an integrated approach to the whole region.

The history of Japanese cooperation with Oceania is comparatively short and the accumulated knowledge and experience is still inadequate. It is expected that there will be increased coordination with major donors such as Australia and New Zealand and with regional and international organizations like the SPC (South Pacific Committee) and the SPF (the South Pacific Forum).

In 1994, bilateral aid to Oceania only amounted to 1.3% of total bilateral ODA but the rate of increase is rapid, from \$24 million in 1985 to \$126 million in 1994, a five fold increase in ten years. Since the countries in the region are generally small and low in income, most bilateral aid is given as technical cooperation and grant aid. The only countries to have been granted yen loans are currently Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Grass roots grant aid* is the most notable form of aid to these small island countries.

Since such cooperation can be carried out centered on local Japanese diplomatic missions, it is a flexible and responsive form of aid with a wide range of applications, capable of responding to the requests of the Oceania countries, for example, by providing audio-visual aids and constructing small bridges. Increasingly, needs identified by senior cooperation experts and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers are being linked to these examples of aid work and it is expected that these links will be actively encouraged in the future.

Priority items for JICA programs

In order to carry out the aid to Oceania in a more planned and appropriate manner, JICA set up a "Oceania Region Aid Study Group" in 1991 as part of the country-specific aid study groups which studied the development needs and the preferable future forms of aid and produced reports.

As part of this, they recognized the necessity of giving aid which takes the diversity of Oceania into account and the distinctive reasons for the development of these island countries being constrained. They proposed that the priority items for future aid should be support for economic independence, the surmounting of isolation and limitedness in area and the support for conservative development (which contributes to the preservation of traditional values).

As forest destruction and ecological destruction of beaches are both becoming worse in Oceania, environmental conservation and protection of resources are important subjects. The island countries of this region use their marine and forest resources to obtain

* Grant aid to grass roots projects: projects which support various social and economic development projects at grass roots level, requested by local public organizations in developing nations or NGO. These are smaller projects for which ordinary grants are difficult to obtain.

foreign currency to promote economic growth and raise living standards, but in some parts there is overfishing and rapid depletion of forest areas.

It is imperative that natural resources are used in a sustainable way which harmonizes with the natural ecology and environmental considerations must be taken into account at the planning and implementation stages when aid is given.

As one way of engaging with this problem, JICA is carrying out the project-type technical cooperation project "The Aquaculture Research and Development Project" with the aim of developing the farming of shellfish in Tonga. Another project-type technical cooperation project "Forest Research Project Phase II" is being implemented in Papua New Guinea. Beginning in 1995 as a technical cooperation project which carried on from the highly rated "Forest Research Project" carried out from 1989 to 1994, this has the aim of further improving the testing and research standards for the development of forest resources.

Coordination with other donor countries and international organizations

As development aid to all of Oceania through regional and international organizations, the "South Pacific Seabed Mineral Resources Study", which Japan, under an agreement with SOPAC, has been carrying out since 1985, aims to assess potential seabed resources. It is also planned that a study of the seabed mineral resources of Tonga, Fiji, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia will be carried out.

Preparations are going ahead for the "Health Promotion Project" which is to be carried out in conjunction with Australia. The objective of this project is to disseminate information about health and medical treatment in Fiji and it will carry out health education using printed material such as posters and pamphlets as well as radio and television programs. This is notable in being the first project in Oceania to be carried out jointly by Japan and Australia.

Western Samoa: Construction of a ferry-boat, and related technologies to supplement marine transportation

Ferry-boat Building Project

Construction of a ferry to link two major islands

For the island countries of the South Pacific sea transport is a vital means of communication and transportation. In Western Samoa, which is located in the center of the South Pacific and is divided into the two main islands of Upolu and Savai'i, the means of transportation are closely linked to the daily life of the people.

The sea route which joins Upolu and Savai'i was operated by a small and rather antiquated craft capable of carrying about 120 passengers and a few light vehicles. However, this capacity was completely incapable of coping with the number of passengers in a year, more than 300,000 or approximately twice the population of the islands. Japan gave grant aid to be used in purchasing equipment for the repair of this vessel and in 1988 a new ferry boat of 999 tonnes overall, capable of carrying 300 people, 10 light vehicles and 7 trucks, was constructed according to the plan and this began to ply the route between Upolu and Savai'i.

This ferry boat, named the Lady Samoa II, performs the return journey between the two islands about three times a day, carrying about 400,000 people and 30,000 vehicles a year and

it is now vital to the transportation of Western Samoa.

With the gift of the ferry boat, there was also background cooperation in the training of personnel involved in the maintenance and management of the vessel.

In parallel with Japan's gift of the ferry-boat, the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) donated materials and equipment for the vessel maintenance and management project and dispatched experts.

In addition, technical instructors were dispatched from Japan and continue to work there.

Two Japanese technicians who arrived after the donation of the vessel are the JICA experts currently dispatched to the Western Samoa Shipping Corporation, the recipient of the ferry-boat, to act as instructors in maintenance and management.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have been sent to assist with the electrical component of the maintenance and management work and three are currently working in Western Samoa.

Continued support which produces effective aid

When the ferry-boat was first donated, there was little awareness of the concept of maintenance, little was done until a breakdown occurred and

the spare parts were dumped randomly in the warehouse.

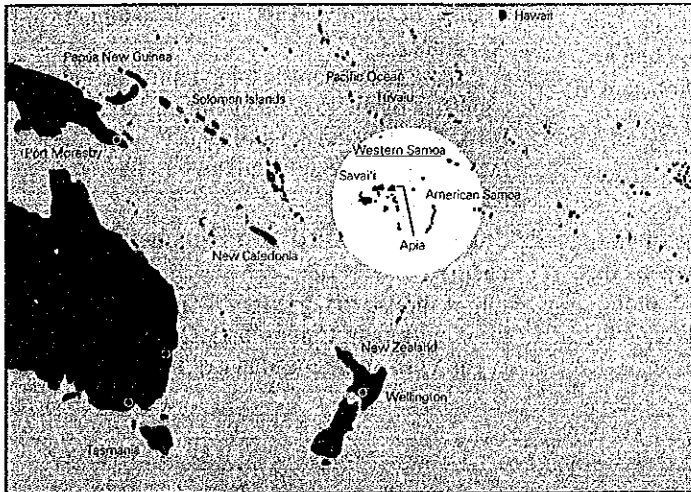
However, although the Samoan side has not reached a state in which they are capable of carrying out all of the maintenance and management, at least there is now a completely functioning repair shop capable of carrying out basic repairs and maintenance.

The spare parts, repair materials and equipment initially donated for the vessel were lost in the cyclones which struck in 1991 and 1992 or were the objects of frequent thefts, so that vessel maintenance and management became very difficult. As these events happened, support was provided by materials and equipment brought by disaster relief teams, dispatched experts and from JOCV volunteers aid funds.

Western Samoa, which lacks technicians and has poor crew training facilities, faces a continuing series of problems including the training of ship technicians and the management of the vessel, with the Shipping Corporation, which runs the vessel, being in a poor state of managerial competence.

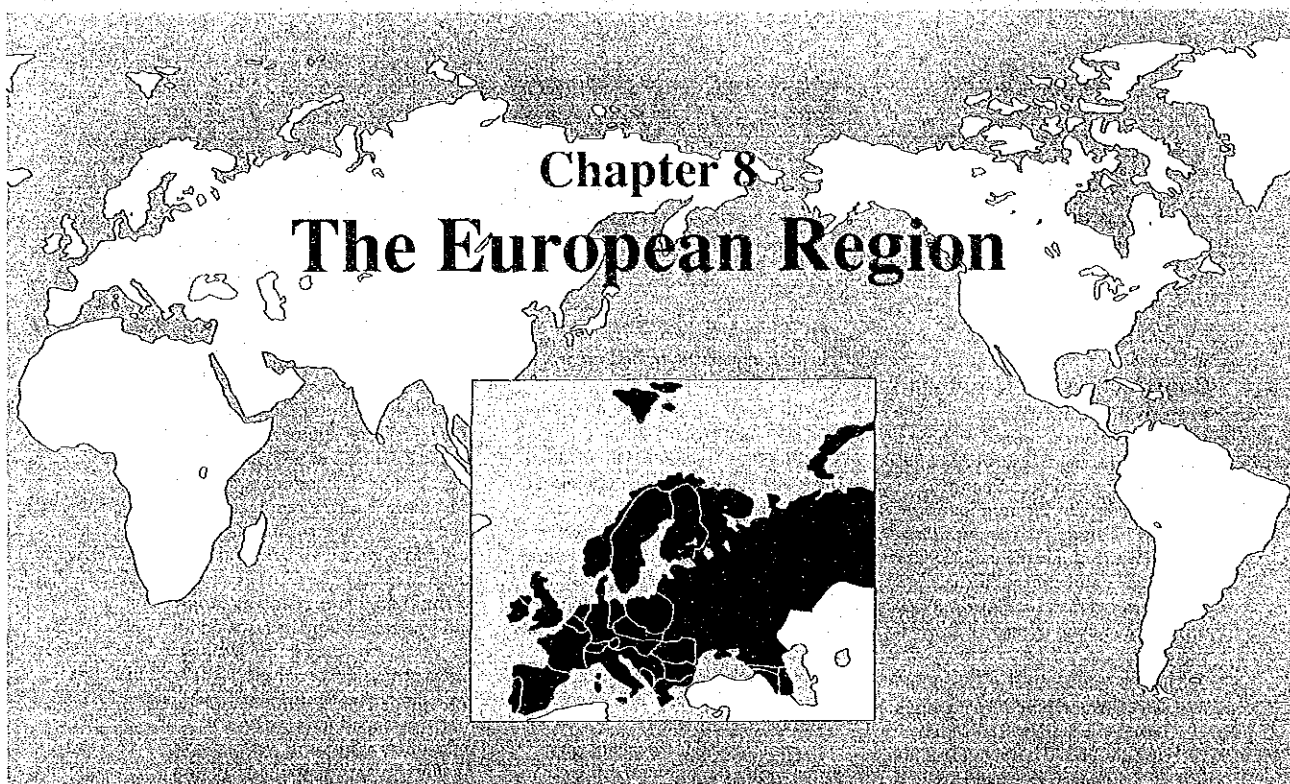
Although problems undoubtedly remain, the project has been successful in maintaining the effects of the aid through the efforts of all those involved, the experts, JOCV volunteers and those involved on the Samoan side.

(JICA Western Samoa Office)



Ferry-boat building project

Grant aid to construct a ferry boat to link the two main islands and to supply materials and equipment for its maintenance. Technical cooperation by experts dispatched in connection with this project is still continuing.



Working towards the transition to market economy in the countries of Eastern Europe

From a general viewpoint, almost all of the countries in the European region are modernized and are completely economically independent and, in terms of economic power, a majority are donor rather than recipient countries. However, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, although European nations, were under Communist regime for a long period after the Second World War and their economies, having been subject to centralized planning, are markedly backward.

From late 1989, however, Poland, Hungary and the other countries of this region began economic reforms designed towards a transition to a market economy through democratization.

In response to these democratization movements, the developed countries of the West actively supported these reforms on the basis of the integrated aid framework of the G24 (the group of nations involved in aid to Eastern Europe).

This began with the G24 founding declaration issued after the Paris Summit of July 1989, held to discuss aid to Poland and Hungary. These two countries were subsequently added to by the former East Germany, former Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, former Yugoslavia, Rumania, Albania and the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania). The former East Germany, which was united with West Germany and former Yugoslavia, where there was an increasingly violent war, were removed from the list of recipient countries in November 1991. Slovenia became a recipient country in October 1992 and Macedonia in November 1993.

Twenty four countries, including the twelve countries of the European Union, Japan, the USA, Canada and Australia, as well as the IMF, the World Bank and the OECD participate in the G24.

Japanese aid to the European region

In response to these trends, Japanese aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe began with aid to the states of Poland,

Hungary, former Czechoslovakia (after the revolution in November 1989, Czechoslovakia changed its name from the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in April 1990. The federation was dissolved on 1 January 1993 to form the states of the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia), Bulgaria and Rumania and has actively supported the reforms, as part of the G24 integrated aid.

The total bilateral ODA given by Japan to the European region was \$246 million, 2.6% of the total.

Unlike aid to the traditional LDC and LLDC countries of Africa, for example, aid to Central and Eastern Europe is carried out with the limited aim of supporting a process of transition to market economy, environmental improvement and democratization within a specific period and has the special characteristic that it will end when these countries reach standards equivalent to the other European countries.

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe are going ahead with economic reforms aimed at a transition to a market economy on the basis of *freely elected democratic government*. However, in addition to political chaos and ethnic confrontations, they are also faced with the severe economic tests posed by the loss of their export markets and energy supplies caused by the dissolution of COMECON. In these circumstances, disparities have appeared in the degree of democratization and transition to market economy between the four countries of Slovenia, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic and other Central and Eastern European countries.

Since it is a concern for Japanese diplomacy that the war in former Yugoslavia should not spread to Macedonia and Albania, aid is being actively given to these countries as part of a process of preventive diplomacy. As part of this, a project confirmation study team was sent to Macedonia and Albania in August 1994. *In the future it will be desirable to give aid to support democratization and a move to market economy, as in the rest of Central and Eastern Europe. Since there are considerable*

discrepancies between the economic conditions of these two countries and those of the other Central and Eastern European countries such as Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania, it is desirable to use all forms of aid, as in the case of traditional developing countries.

Priorities for JICA programs

In order to achieve a smooth transition to a market-oriented economy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, it is necessary to introduce management techniques and other expertise from the western liberal economies as well as supplies of capital. The serious environmental problems which had developed under the former communist regimes affect not only the countries of Central and Eastern Europe but their neighbours as well. The infrastructure built up under the centrally managed economic system has not been well maintained and is ageing.

Because of this, aid to countries of Central and Eastern Europe should mainly be involved with the transition to a market-oriented economy, environmental problems and the reconstruction and expansion of the economic and social infrastructures.

In order to respond to these topics for aid to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, JICA's aid will give priority to the following.

- (1) The transition from a planned economy to a market-oriented economy (economic policy, improved productivity, management etc).
- (2) Environmental problems, mainly those of air pollution and waste disposal.
- (3) Reconstruction of the economic infrastructure.

The basic technological standards of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are high and, for the most part, the cooperation carried out, which takes into account the particular circumstances of each country, places priority on projects which require high technologies; development studies, support of democratization, the transition to a market economy and the environment.

Specifically these involve:

- Acceptance of participants for training and dispatch of experts for production management and business management of factories, for example, to support the introduction of a market economy.
- Development studies for the provision of social and economic infrastructures in response to the move to a market economy.
- Preparations of master plans* and feasibility studies of environmental problems countermeasures for which are generally less developed in the countries of this region (studies have been already carried out on waste disposal plans and plans for desulphurization of power station emissions).

In 1994 such programs included the acceptance of participants for training in business management, production management and environmental matters from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Slovenia, Macedonia and Albania. Experts have been sent as advisers to Poland for productivity improvement, to Slovakia for railway organization and economic development, to Bulgaria for milk fermentation technology and to Rumania for economic development.

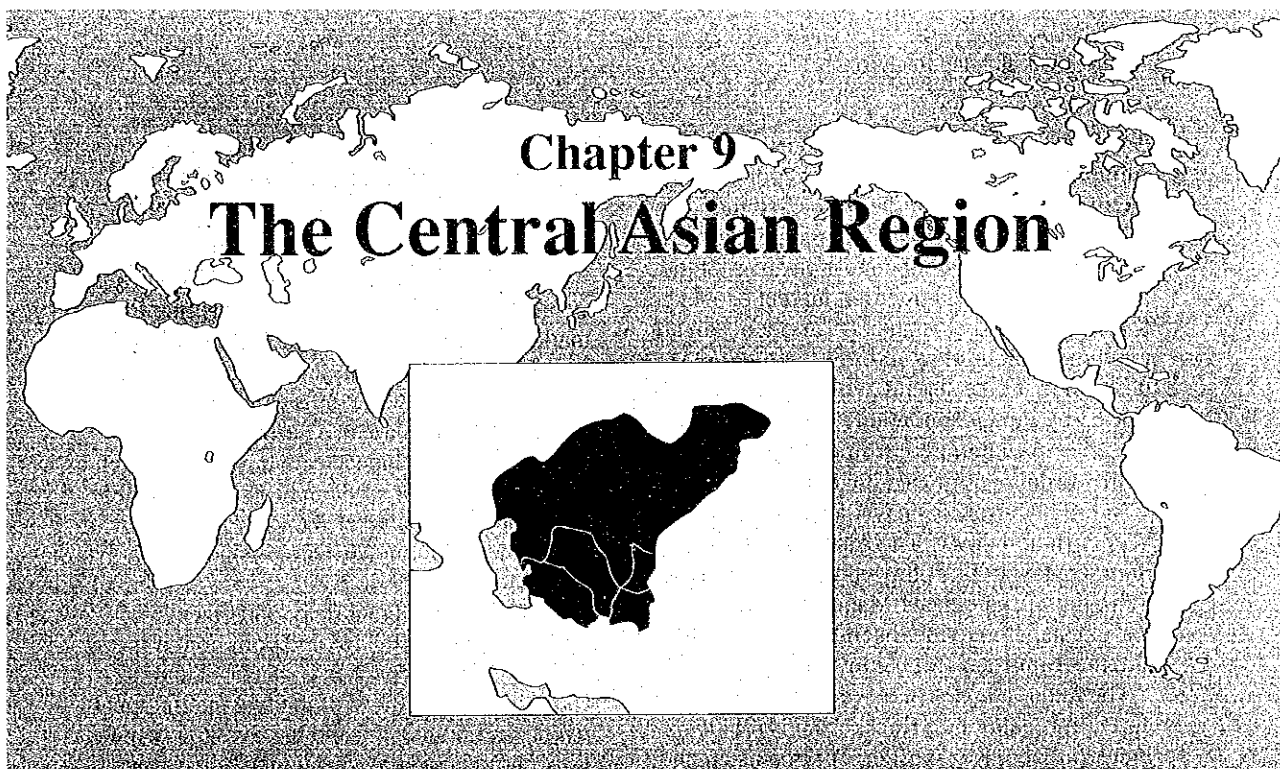
The development studies carried out include the "Solid Waste Management for Poznam City" in Poland, an "Integrated Air Pollution Control Plan for Sajo Valley Area" in Hungary, a "Heating System Modernization Plan" in Slovakia, a "Restructuring and Modernization Plan of Steel Industry" in Bulgaria and the "Environmental Pollution Control and Energy Saving in the Integrated Iron and Steel Works 'SIDEX' S.A. Galati", the "Irrigation Project in Ruginesti-Pufesti-Panciu District Vrancea" and the "Solid Waste Management System for Bucharest Municipality" in Rumania.

Project-type technical cooperation has included the long-term dispatch of three experts in productivity improvement to Hungary (as of March 1995). As of 1995, agreements have also been made for the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation

Volunteers to Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria and these will work in the field of human resources development.

At the Hosokawa-Clinton summit meeting in February 1994, it was announced that agreement had been reached at the time of the Japan-U.S. Economic Framework Consultation on a joint Japan-U.S. plan for environmental improvement in Central and Eastern Europe and that financial cooperation up to a limit of one billion dollars would be carried out. In order to support this plan, JICA took part in the First Japan-U.S. Joint Committee on the Eastern European Environment held in Budapest in May 1994. Subsequently, in order to find possible areas for cooperation in the environmental fields in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, an Eastern Europe Environmental Project Formulation Specialist was sent (for one year from January 1995) to collect basic information in these fields and there will be active support for environmental improvement in the future.

* Master plan: a plan which makes clear the content and priorities of development plans taking into account the constraints on economic and social development in the regional development and stimulation of developing countries.



Countries which gained independence after the disintegration of the Soviet Union

The countries of Central Asia, (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirgiz and Tajikistan) gained independence over the twelve months from August 1991 as the Soviet Union disintegrated. The total area of these five countries is four million square kilometers and they have a total population of 50.2 million people (at the beginning of 1990).

Immigration is an important factor in each of these countries, with a mixture of Russians and Uzbeks and small minorities of Koreans and Germans, in addition to the native population. The majority religion is Islam (Sunni).

Under the strong rule of President Nazarbaev, Kazakhstan has been moving ahead with policies of democratization and economic reform. The upper legislative chamber continues to be dominated by the former Communist party and there is relative political stability. In Uzbekistan, President Karimov has adopted a posture of gradual progress of political reform and economic

reform but there are many causes of instability including territorial disputes and ethnic problems.

In Turkmenistan, there is a majority of the conservative wing of the former Communist party under President Nyazov and there are no overt opposition forces so it is currently stable. Kirgiz, under the direction of President Akaev, who has a wide base of support, has taken the most active stance towards democratization and economic reform.

Tajikistan, which is currently suffering civil war, is in a state of poor political stability.

Economic confusion accompanying transition to a market economy

An economic problem which is common to all the countries of this region, is the major effect of economic turbulence as they make the transition to a market economy and such economic difficulties are expected to continue for some time.

They also face the problems of the presence of Russians and other minority ethnic groups, rapidly growing population and unemployment rates. It will be necessary to carry out national

development and economic reconstruction simultaneously and in parallel in order to raise the living standards of the people, so they have many difficulties to overcome in the future.

Kirgiz has adopted the most positive attitude towards the introduction of a market economy. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are implementing gradual reforms, taking the position that they should avoid social upheaval caused by rapid economic reform. There is no progress in economic reform in Tajikistan due to the unstable political situation.

National currencies have been introduced to keep inflation down. The first was the Kirgiz Som in May 1993, followed by the Uzbekistan Sum, the Turkmenistan Manat and the Kazakhstan Tenge in November of that year and the Tajikistan Rouble in May 1995.

The main industry of all of the countries is agriculture, although Kazakhstan is relatively industrialized. Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have the benefit of underground resources, including natural gas and oil, but Kirgiz and Tajikistan are poor in resources and have only developed some light industries in addition to agriculture.

Japanese cooperation in Central Asia

On the basis of the international situation after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Japan has adopted a policy of actively assisting the countries of Central Asia, reflecting the importance of this part of Asia. Following this policy, Japan began acceptance of participants for training and dispatch of experts as part of aid to the countries of the former Soviet Union in 1991, before these countries were added to the developing countries list of the DAC (OECD Development Assistance Committee).

In order to open the way to ODA to these five countries, Japan worked actively for these countries to be listed and this was achieved on 1 January 1993.

Japanese bilateral ODA to the countries of this region amounts to \$48 million (0.5% of the total), \$7.7 million dollars in technical cooperation, \$500 thousand in grant aid and

\$39.7 million in loans. JICA programs amounted to ¥992 million, equivalent to 0.5% of the total.

Priorities for aid to Central Asia

The fields given priority in Japan's aid to Central Asia are (1) support for transition to a market economy, (2) policies to cope with environmental problems and (3) the provision of social and economic infrastructures.

These countries are in a period of transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy and none of them has proved capable of establishing a market economy smoothly, due to the economic difficulties since independence.

In the environmental field, one urgent problem is the shrinkage and pollution of the Aral Sea which separates Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The flows of the two international rivers, the Amu Darya and the Syrdarja, which flow into this sea have been markedly reduced due to the large scale irrigation of cotton cultivation in the desert and the water polluted by the chemicals used in this cultivation, resulting in a deterioration in the health of the local people.

Social and economic infrastructures were provided during the time of the Soviet Union, but no maintenance systems were put in place, facilities have aged and there has been an increase in demand, so this is an area where the needs are great.

Japan is providing aid in these priority areas through acceptance of participants for training, dispatch of experts and development studies.

Participants for training are accepted for "Special Central Asia Courses" which cover subjects such as aid for market economy transition and environmental protection, and a total of 300 participants from the five countries have taken these courses between 1993 and 1995. Since 1993, experts in the fields of aid for market economy transition and mining were dispatched to Kirgiz and Kazakhstan and a development study of transportation, communications, broadcasting, the environment, mining and manufacturing has been carried out in Kazakhstan, Kirgiz and Uzbekistan.

Since 1994 a basic design study and expediting of execution work for the provision of equipment and materials for a children's hospital by grant aid have been carried out in Kirgiz and Uzbekistan and project-formulation studies and basic studies have also been carried out in the fields of mineral resources development.

Although all the countries face the problems due to lack of infrastructures and environmental degradation, there are differences between the countries in the political and economic circumstances and in the degree to which a market economy has been introduced. Therefore, one future cooperation issue in Central Asia is to carry out precisely appropriate cooperation according to the situation in each country.

