

Part 3

Outline of JICA Activities

1. Identification and Formulation of Projects



A meeting attended by a project formulation study team at the Marine Research Laboratories in Split, Croatia.

Outline of JICA Activities

JICA's activities accord with an integrated process or project cycle which passes through the stages of planning, implementation, evaluation, and feedback into the planning stage at the start of the next project cycle. In order to improve the content of these activities and to enhance the effects of technical cooperation, each stage in the project cycle needs to be monitored and managed in an integrated manner. The following points in particular are important at each stage of a project:

(1) Planning: Studying and analyzing the needs and requests of developing countries, defining target groups, and specifying the purpose, targets, resources to be used (e.g. required fields

of specialization, number of experts to be dispatched, costs required for the project as a whole, etc.), and details of the activities.

(2) Implementation: Implementing projects in accordance with the plan, revising the direction of the plan on the basis of implementation monitoring, and achieving results.

(3) Evaluation: Assessing whether the results achieved by a project are in line with the original targets, measuring the effects of the project, investigating how the results have been achieved, and feeding back the findings into future project planning.

In Part 3 of this report, we shall be looking at JICA activities in accordance with the following four items, that is to say the three stages of the

project cycle and efforts to strengthen the foundations for project implementation:

- (1) Identification, formulation and planning (Chapter 1);
- (2) Project implementation (Chapter 2);
- (3) Evaluation and follow-up (Chapter 3);
- (4) Strengthening foundations for project implementation (Chapter 4).

Outline of identification, formulation and planning activities

The importance of a starting point for cooperation

In order to raise the effectiveness of JICA cooperation projects, it is important to gain an accurate grasp of the needs of developing countries and to plan and implement projects in line with the features of individual countries on the basis of a knowledge of the social and economic conditions, organization, and systems of developing countries (i.e. a country-specific approach).

JICA projects are based on the principle that the government of the recipient country should submit a request for aid through diplomatic channels. However, there are some developing countries that have not reached the stage of being able to determine for themselves on the level of national policy the nature of the projects that need to be implemented for their national development.

Also, even though a country may be able accurately to grasp its own needs and to formulate projects, it may still not be adequately equipped to receive aid from other countries. JICA adopts the country-specific approach when dealing with such countries. We first analyze the conditions and issues facing a country and take a close look at the direction of its development. We then put together an actual cooperation project. This is the process of project identification and formulation.

The identification and formulation of projects is the starting point for cooperation and determines the direction of cooperation. We place considerable importance on such activities as the starting point for cooperation in the belief

that they, together with the assessments made at the final stage, are indispensable for ensuring the success of a cooperation project.

JICA makes allowances for costs involved in stimulating the efficiency of aid in order to strengthen both the initial and the final stages of cooperation. Of these budgeted activities, we shall be looking at the main points of those related to the identification, formulation and planning of cooperation, specifically in connection with (1) collecting and collating country-specific information, (2) identifying and formulating projects, and (3) studies and research for making aid more efficient and effective.

Collecting and collating country-specific information

Acquiring country-specific information

The acquisition and analysis of basic information on developing countries plays an indispensable role in strengthening country-specific approaches. JICA gathers and analyzes basic information on social and economic matters in developing countries, information on technology, and information on aid trends at aid agencies other than JICA. We also arrange and systematize in a centralized manner the experience and information obtained in the course of Japanese aid activities implemented in the past. This approach enables us to obtain a wide range of information of benefit in the implementation of country-specific cooperation.

In FY1997, we updated country-specific information on 115 countries for which information had been gathered until the previous year, and entered this information into country-specific files.

Country-specific environmental and WID information studies

The environment and WID* (Women in Development) are issues which need to be tackled laterally in all JICA projects; country-specific environmental and WID information studies are carried out with these issues borne in mind. Information is gathered and collated in connection with environmental problems and the current status and systems of WID in developing

countries. At the same time, studies are carried out on how environmental agencies and government departments in recipient countries are tackling environmental problems and on the current state of such problems in the countries in question.

In FY1997, studies using local consultants were carried out in 17 countries including Côte d'Ivoire. From FY1998, JICA is intending to create its own centralized country-specific information database and publish general basic information on each country in order to make materials gathered by overseas offices and survey teams sent by JICA more readily available. Information on country-specific cooperation, the environment and WID will be integrated into this database.

Placement of local technical advisors

Local technical advisors are being allocated to overseas offices to collect and analyze not only this basic information but also peripheral information concerning the project submitted by the recipient country. The main aims here are to gather technical and related information in connection with matters such as the number of technicians possessed by the recipient agency, the agency's levels, its financial capacity, and the state of local infrastructure*. In FY1997, 52 local technical advisors had been allocated to 24 countries and four regions.

Identification and formulation of projects

Project formulation studies

There are occasions when the details of requests from developing countries have been insufficiently thought out and other occasions when the circumstances of a developing country make it difficult for that country to present a request, notwithstanding the priority which needs to be given to the projects concerned.

In such cases, on-site studies are needed in connection with the projects, and specialized discussions must be held with the government of the recipient country and related agencies (including NGOs*) concerning the appropriateness of the cooperation details, the

capability of institutions in the recipient country to implement the project and the systems they will employ to do so, and the impact and repercussions that the effects of cooperation are likely to have on the economy and society of the recipient country. These discussions should then serve as the basis for formulating the optimum plan for cooperation.

JICA is thus carrying out project formulation studies and is drawing up cooperation plans able to offer an immediate response to the needs and the economic social conditions of developing countries. These studies may be carried out by study teams sent from Japan or local consultants employed by JICA overseas offices.

Fifty-six studies were carried out in FY1997 in 46 developing countries and regions. The numbers of projects per region were as follows:

- (1) Asia: 20 (35%)
- (2) Middle East: 7 (12.5%)
- (3) Africa: 12 (21%)
- (4) Latin America: 8 (14%)
- (5) Oceania: 3 (5%)
- (6) Europe: 7 (12.5%)

Intraregional cooperation workshops on specific fields

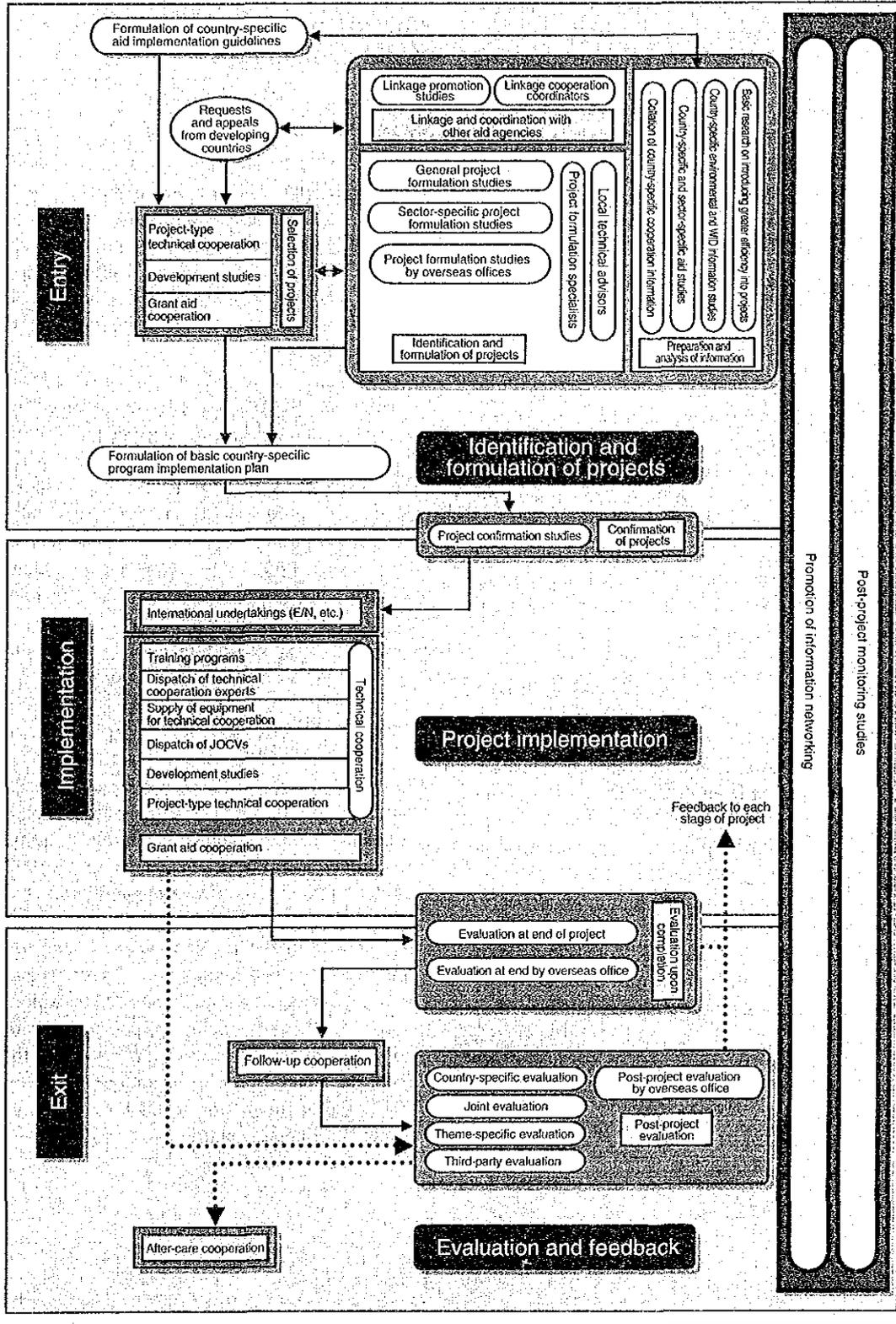
In order to identify and formulate projects involving issues of relevance not merely to single countries but, by extension, to neighboring countries in the region, JICA has set up a system of special intraregional cooperation workshops on specific fields at which related countries can get together and discuss how cooperation might best be provided.

In FY1997, a workshop lasting four days was held in Mexico on measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases in Latin America. Thirteen Latin American countries took part in this workshop, at which discussions were held on how these countries could work together to prevent the spread of disease and on possibilities for cooperation in the future.

Dispatch of project formulation specialists

The project formulation specialist system was established in order to send experts in development fields of priority concern to developing countries, to gather recipient

Fig. 3-1: Flow of individual technical projects



countries' needs over a relatively long term, to formulate high-quality projects, and to process requested projects.

In FY1997, 68 project formulation specialists were sent to formulate projects from their specialized standpoints to 38 countries and 7 regions including the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bolivia, Palestine, Kenya, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Project confirmation studies

In order to promote effective aid, there is a need not only for consultations on specific cooperation projects but also for dialogue on the policy level. This dialogue must involve JICA's project implementation plans in accordance with the results of project formulation studies and country-specific information gathering, Japan's aid plans, and the recipient country's development plans.

In more precise terms, information required for going ahead with projects which conform to JICA's aid principles is obtained and discussed with the recipient country. Thereafter, discussions are held in connection with 1) processing of requested projects (confirming the order of priority and details), 2) ascertaining the state of implementation and problems related to projects under implementation and discussing how to solve such problems, 3) explained aid schemes, and 4) holding discussions on other topics bearing on the implementation of aid. These studies are intended to determine the future direction of cooperation and permit the effective and efficient implementation of projects. In FY1997, 23 study teams were sent to 41 developing countries to confirm and discuss the direction of cooperation for projects for which requests had been entered.

The numbers of study teams dispatched per region were as follows:

- (1) Asia: 8 (35%)
- (2) Middle East: 1 (4%)
- (3) Africa: 7 (31%)
- (4) Latin America: 3 (13%)
- (5) Oceania: 1 (4%)
- (6) Europe: 3 (13%)

Studies contributing to effective and efficient implementation of aid projects

Country-specific and sector-specific aid studies

Various studies are required to ensure that projects are implemented in accordance with national and regional conditions. They are concerned with matters such as 1) priority fields for implementation of projects, 2) issues which must be tackled in these fields, and 3) items to be taken into consideration in the context of overall development planning.

Centering on the Institute for International Cooperation, JICA is at present involved in studies on country-specific and sector-specific aid with the participation of scholars and experts from outside the agency. In FY1997, aid studies were carried out in connection with Peru, China, Laos and Indonesia, while sector-specific studies focused on the "DAC New Development Strategy*" in continuation from the previous year. The results of these studies are being used as guidelines for project planning and for the identification and formulation of projects.

Basic research for improving project efficiency

In order to improve the efficiency of projects, basic research on project efficiency is being carried out on issues common to multiple projects.

Research of this type conducted in FY1997 included "Study on Development and the Environment in the River Mekong Basin" (continued from the previous year), "Study on Supply Capacity and Recruitment of Experts and Other Aid Personnel" (a study intended to explore the possibilities of employing personnel from many fields in JICA projects), and "Methods for Supporting South-South Cooperation*" (a study of practical methods for technology transfer* between developing countries).

1. Development Studies



Local women working on the construction of water supply facilities in a pilot project being implemented in the Republic of South Africa.

Outline of projects

Outline and aims

Development studies are carried out to provide support with the formulation of development plans for public projects (see Table 3-1) which contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries. At the same time, while the studies are actually being performed, they serve as mediums for technology transfer* (planning formulation methods, survey and analytical skills, etc.) to counterparts* in the recipient country.

Development studies are performed on the basis of detailed rules of implementation (S/W) agreed upon between JICA and the governments of

developing countries. They are actually carried out by consultants selected by JICA. Reports are produced under the guidance and supervision of JICA in cooperation with the governments of developing countries. Technology transfer occurs while the studies are being performed.

The reports prepared at the conclusion of studies provide the governments of recipient countries with data for assessing policies bearing on social and economic development. They also provide international organizations and donor countries with materials for studying financial aid and technical cooperation. In most cases, the plans proposed by the studies are realized with funds obtained from Japanese yen loans and grant aid. Technology and skills transferred in the course of the studies are then

Table 3-1: Fields covered by development studies

Field	Main contents
Planning and administration	Regional development plans, economic development plans
Public works	Water supply and sewerage, urban sanitation, waste disposal
Social infrastructure	Urban planning, rivers, erosion control, water resources, housing, cartography
Transportation and traffic	Traffic plans, roads, railways, ports, airports, urban traffic
Communications and broadcasting	Mail, telecommunications, television and radio broadcasting
Health care and medicine	Administration of health, medical treatment and hygiene, population and family planning
Agriculture	Development of agricultural methods and villages, irrigation and drainage, processing and distribution of agricultural produce, livestock raising
Forestry	Resource studies, social forestry, forestry management planning, processing of forestry produce
Fishery	Resource studies, processing and distribution of seafood produce, development of fishing villages, aqua-farming, fishing ports
Mining and industry	Resource studies, industrial promotion, factory modernization
Energy	Energy development, energy-saving
Environment	Measures against air and water pollution, processing of industrial waste
Others	Development of human resources, education, commerce and tourism, management, etc.

used by the recipient country itself in the implementation of projects and other studies.

Types of study

Master Plan Studies (M/P)

Master Plan Studies are conducted with a view to formulating comprehensive development plans and long-term sectoral development plans for a country as a whole or for specific regions. Master plans permit the efficient implementation of a plan by 1) ensuring compatibility between projects and 2) clarifying the order of priority of projects.

Projects ranked in order of priority in the master plan may then become the object of feasibility studies as described below.

Feasibility Studies (F/S)

Feasibility studies are conducted to examine objectively whether individual projects accorded a priority ranking in accordance with development plans and policies can actually be implemented and to formulate the most

appropriate plan for their implementation. The feasibility of a project is examined from various angles including technical concerns, the national economy, government finances, social concerns, administrative organization, institutions, and, last but not least, the environment.

Reports on feasibility studies are used as materials for studying financial cooperation from international agencies and aid donor countries.

Preparation of basic data

The following studies are conducted in order to arrange, gather and submit the information needed for the formulation of development plans:

(1) Preparation of topographical charts

Studies involving the preparation of topographical charts (basic maps of national territory and urban areas) for use as the most basic data in the formulation of development plans.

(2) Development of ground water

Studies to ascertain the development potential of ground water reserves.

(3) Development of forestry and fishery resources

Studies for preparing basic data to ascertain the state of forestry and fishery resources.

(4) Development of mineral resources

Studies to ascertain the state of mineral resources conducted by means of geological surveys, physical investigation, geological surveys, and boring, etc.

(5) Corroborative studies

Studies involving corroborative investigation of technical possibilities in connection with projects requiring new technical development likely to extend over a long period owing to the absence of practical data.

Supplementary and aftercare studies

Once a development study has been completed, it may happen that a revision study is needed on account of sudden changes in socio-economic conditions or natural conditions or simply because a long period of time has elapsed since the original study.

Supplementary or "aftercare" studies involving review of the results of development surveys or the performance of additional work in line with changes in conditions are carried out to ensure that effective use can be made of the results of the original survey and that these results will be of use in realizing the plan in the future.

Detailed design studies

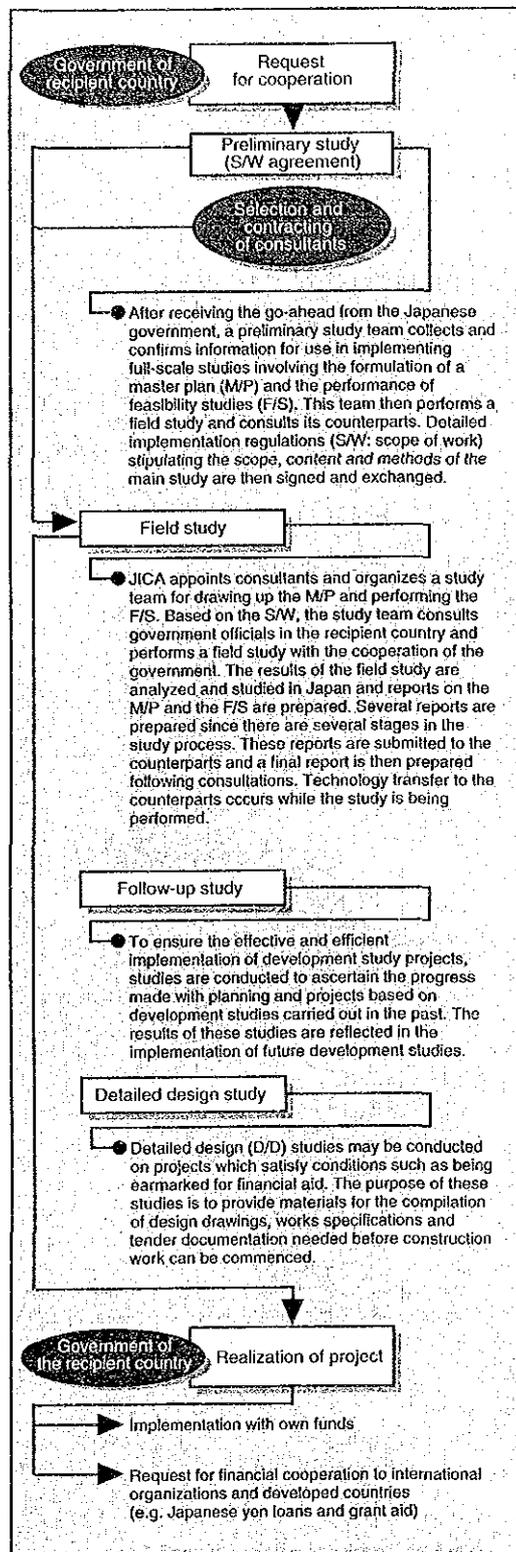
Detailed design studies are carried out for the purpose of creating the design drawings, work specifications and tender documentation needed before construction work can begin (construction and supervision are dealt with separately) in the case of projects earmarked for financial cooperation such as yen loans whose implementation has been approved.

These studies, which are more detailed than feasibility studies, involve preparation of design drawings needed in the construction process and precise calculation of construction costs.

Studies to support the transition to a market economy

These studies are conducted with the aim of formulating basic strategy and comprehensive implementation plans for promoting policies aimed at effecting a transition to a market economy and liberalizing markets as manifest in monetary and financial reform, adjustment of legal systems, and

■ Fig. 3-2: Flow of development studies



privatization of state and public enterprises. Workshops and seminars are also held to improve the administrative capability of the authorities in recipient countries and to provide training.

The studies also look into possibilities for the execution of privatization plans. Practical implementation plans are prepared and manuals and texts are produced in connection with the implementation process.

Follow-up studies

These studies are conducted in order to ascertain how plans and projects based on development studies carried out in the past have been progressing, the idea being to ensure that development studies are performed as effectively and efficiently as possible. The results are then reflected in the implementation of future development studies.

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Study on an Environmental Management Plan for an Environmental Model Zone in Dalian Municipality

Full-scale linkage with local government



The city of Dalian in China has development around trade and heavy industry. Rapid advances have occurred in recent years in urbanization, and various environmental problems have arisen as industry has progressed. Dalian and the Japanese city of Kitakyushu concluded a friendship agreement in 1979, since when the two cities have maintained a lively exchange. In the environmental field, exchange and cooperation between the two cities has become very close, since Kitakyushu has itself been through the experience of conquering pollution.

The environmental model zone idea arose out of this exchange between Dalian and Kitakyushu. Through the Chinese central government, Dalian presented a request to the Japanese government for cooperation with a development study involving bilateral cooperation. The project was formally approved at the end of January 1996. A preliminary study team was sent to Dalian in August that year, and a two-year study was begun in December.

Development studies carried out by JICA in linkage with local government have generally involved local government

employees acting as works supervisors and giving advice on the study. However, the procedure adopted on this occasion was to form a Japanese study team consisting of a group of consultants (an implementation study team) selected by JICA working together on the study with a team from Kitakyushu.

Since full use could be made of the technical experience and expertise in environmental administration possessed by a local government authority, it proved possible to provide more detailed cooperation than if the study had been carried out entirely by consultants selected by JICA. Follow-up once the study is over may be anticipated through personal exchanges fostered by the friendship agreement between the two cities.

For the local government authority, this study represented a major achievement in the field of international cooperation. It had many benefits for the Kitakyushu authorities: it was a good public relations exercise which enhanced the image of local government among the people of Kitakyushu, it generated international awareness among civic employees, and it helped strengthen the friendly relations between Dalian and Kitakyushu.

Work related to studies

(1) Seminars are held and texts in local languages are prepared in connection with the results of surveys in order to encourage technology transfer on the basis of the development studies.

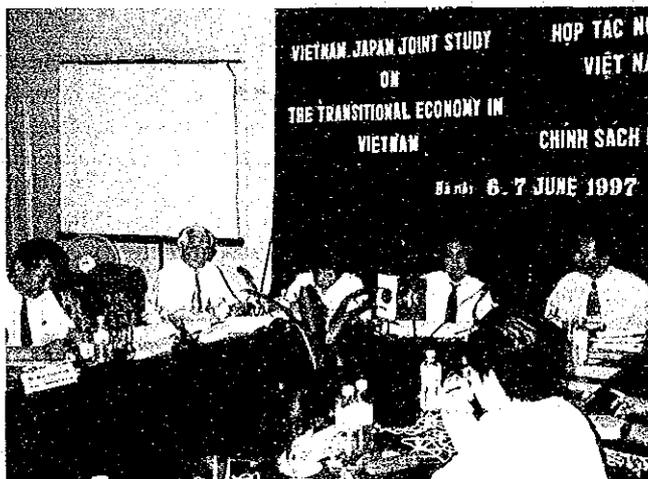
(2) Documentation concerning development planning in developing countries and basic study methods possessed by related organizations is

gathered and analyzed. Research is then conducted aimed at ensuring that such documentation proves to be of use for development studies and basic study methods in developing countries.

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Study on Economic Development Policy in Terms of the Transition Toward a Market-oriented Economy (Phase II)

Support with the transition from a planned economy to a market economy



Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Vietnam and Mongolia are among the regions and countries which formerly had Communist planned economies but are now making the transition to market economies. They are being given assistance in this process by international aid organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF. Since the late 1980s, these countries have abolished planned economic management, have stimulated market functions, and are creating efficient economic systems.

In linkage with international agencies, JICA has been providing cooperation in fields not previously

covered by development aid. These include economic management, reforms of state enterprises, monetary reform, and revamping of legal systems.

Vietnam has been opening up to foreign investment and issuing shares in state enterprises since 1986 within the framework of its Doi Moi ("Renovation") policy. However, the transition to a market economy is proving to be no easy matter owing to factors such as the backwardness of the country's production technology and the inadequacy of the administrative system needed to manage the market economy.

In response to a request received from the Vietnamese government, JICA carried out a development study aimed at supporting the transition to a market economy through promotion of farming and farming villages, fiscal and monetary reform, industrialization policies, and reforms in state enterprises. Proposals were then made for stimulating the market economy on the basis of information on the actual state of the economy obtained through household budget surveys and surveys of state enterprises.

The Vietnamese thought highly of the study. JICA made a significant contribution to stimulating the transition to a market economy, for example by directly explaining matters to leading figures in the government who had until then tried to keep their distance from overseas aid.

Upon completion of the report, a workshop was held with the participation of representatives of the World Bank, the IMF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) stationed in Vietnam and a joint Japanese-Vietnamese research team. Cooperation in linkage with international agencies is thus being encouraged.

Issues and responses in projects

Improving the quality of development study projects

To ensure that study projects fulfill their original aims and are effectively employed, ample consideration must be given at the study stage to matters such as the technical suitability of the project, funding possibilities, and the administrative side of system implementation. Studies themselves must be carried out effectively and efficiently. Adequate preparatory work, including preliminary studies, are indispensable for raising the quality of work.

JICA is therefore compiling supervision and inspection manuals and preparing various planning and technical standards for road projects, etc. In order to provide an appropriate response to the diversifying development needs of developing countries and to execute studies efficiently and effectively, we need to work toward compiling basic region-specific, country-specific, and sector-specific information.

With large-scale projects and projects requiring advanced technical skills, consultants are employed to carry out technical evaluation and examinations of the studies. Linkage with local government is encouraged in the case of projects where local government possesses plentiful experience and expertise.

Priority global issues

The topics dealt with in development studies in environmental fields include environmental management planning of rivers and lakes, planning for the creation of urban environmental model zones, waste disposal, and surveys aimed at integrated air quality management.

We are also dealing with environmental projects in new fields through studies on the prevention of desertification and conservation of coral reefs and other forms of marine life. We intend in the future to continue working on the formulation of further plans for environment-friendly, sustainable development*.

As to the important development issues raised in the DAC New Development Strategy*, we are currently working on development studies in Africa for two health and medical care projects. We

are preparing to carry out development studies in the field of basic education too.

Region-specific and country-specific issues

To consolidate our region-specific and country-specific approach, we work hard to achieve a full understanding of cultural, social and economic conditions in recipient countries and to ascertain the development issues being faced by individual countries through formulation of country-specific aid implementation guidelines.

We are also working on expanding our activities into new regions and countries.

Increase in policy-support projects

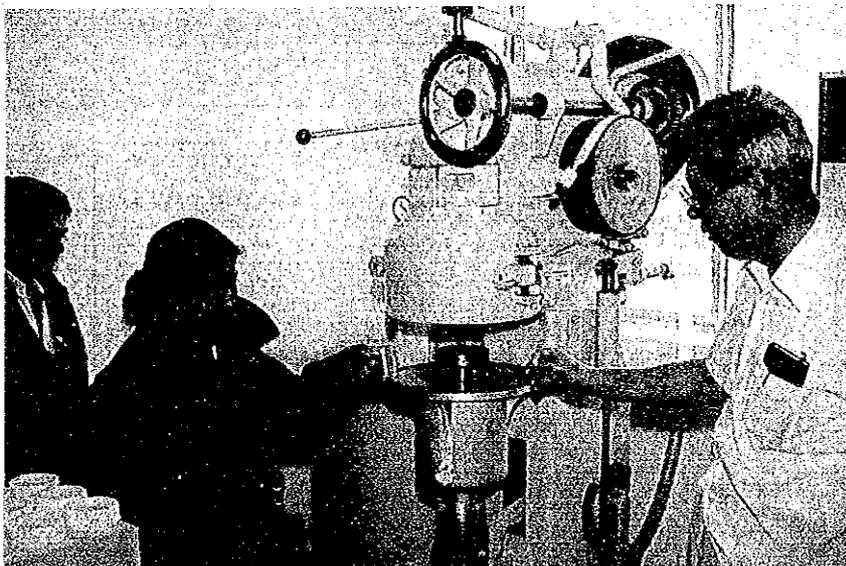
Various aid needs have arisen out of the changes in the international community coming in the wake of the dissolution of the structures which applied during the Cold War. One thinks especially of support with monetary and fiscal reform, updating of legal systems, and the privatization of state and public enterprises primarily in former communist countries, Central Asia, and in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

In the future there is likely to be a further increase in requests for cooperation relating to policy support and proposal-type aid aimed at encouraging the adoption of the market economy, and JICA is working on strengthening its response in this area.

Linkage with other forms of aid

We are continuing to consolidate and encourage the exchange of information bearing on grant aid projects, loan aid projects involving the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), and financial projects involving international financial agencies. We are also encouraging linkage from the earliest stages of a project (identification, formulation, etc.) and are working on how to determine projects linked with financial aid when annual plans are compiled. Links with other aid agencies are also being strengthened to enable international initiatives to be taken.

2. Project-type Technical Cooperation



An expert giving instruction in how to operate a canning machine for seed storage in the Sri Lanka Plant Genetic Resources Center Project.

Outline of the Program

Project-type technical cooperation is a type of technical support under which three elements -- dispatch of experts, taking in participants for training in Japan, and the provision of equipment and materials -- are organically linked and the whole process from project formulation through to implementation and evaluation is managed and controlled in an integrated manner.

Projects generally involve cooperation for a period of five years and center on cooperation with the development of economic self-reliance in developing countries and human resources training to deal with BHN*. However, cooperation has recently come to include education as the bulwark of human resources development and global issues* such as the

environment.

Project-type technical cooperation is concerned with fostering human resources, research and development, and diffusion of skills and technology in five specific areas, namely social development, health and medical care, population and family planning, agriculture, forestry and fishery, and development of mining and manufacturing industry.

This type of cooperation involves ensuring that the transferred technology takes firm root. It also incorporates the

establishment of organizational and institutional structures needed to guarantee that skills and technology transferred to the recipient country take root and that the country is able to execute projects on its own initiative once Japanese cooperation has come to an end.

In most projects, several experts under a leader are dispatched as a team. Through the project activities, the Japanese experts transfer skills and knowledge essential for implementation of a project to administrators, researchers and technicians (the counterparts* of the experts) of the recipient country who are taking part in the project. To ensure effective technology transfer*, it is important for both sides to deepen their understanding of each other's cultures and societies and for the technology involved to be

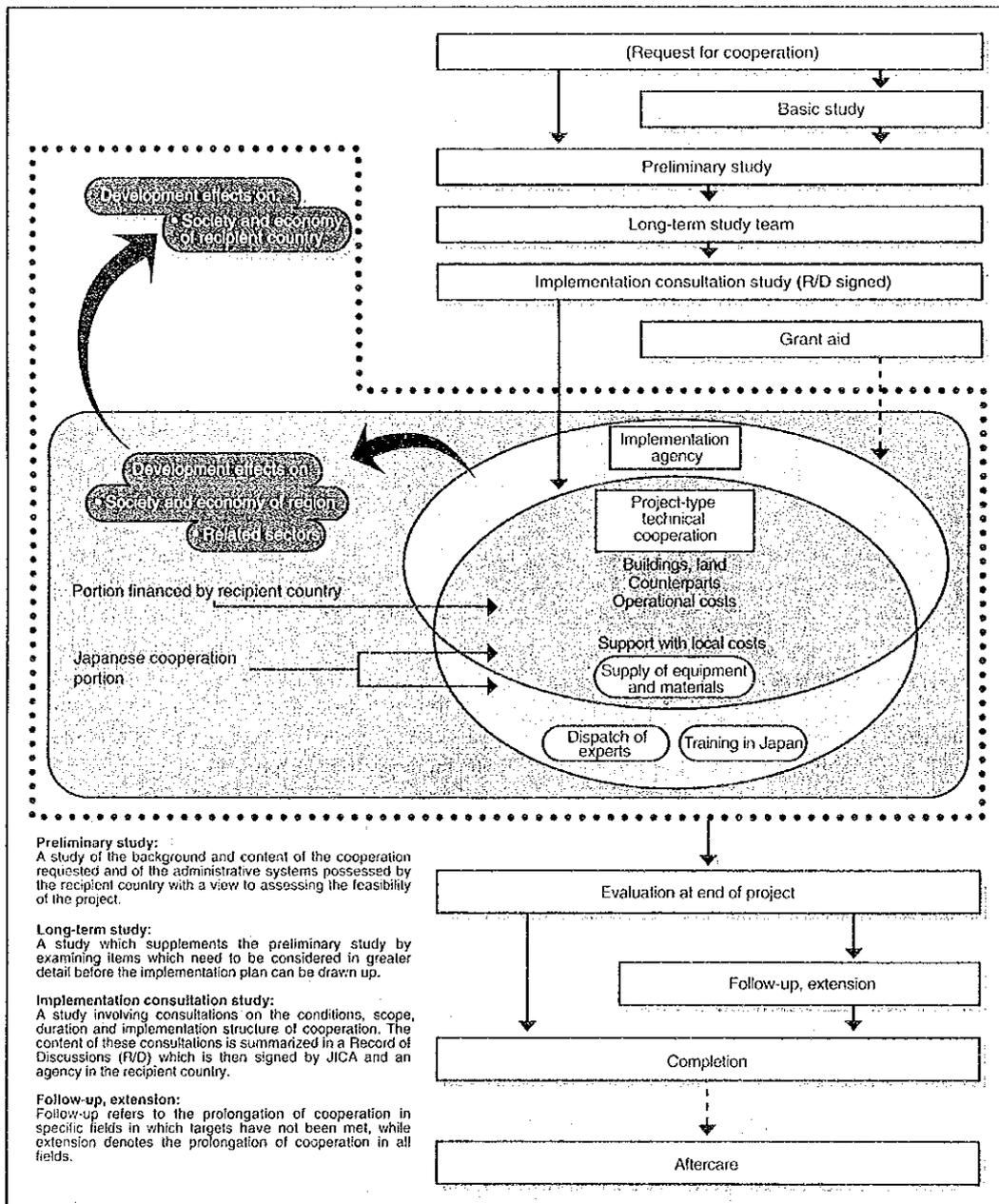
appropriate to the region, while being based on Japanese technology.

Training involves counterparts coming to Japan and attending research institutes, educational institutions, hospitals or laboratories to study project management methods and to improve their technical expertise in project-related fields. Training in Japan also provides

trainees with an ideal opportunity not only to acquire specific knowledge and skills but also to gain an understanding of Japanese culture and institutions.

Equipment and materials are made available when needed for the execution of projects in cases where the recipient country is unable to provide its own. As part of technology transfer, Japanese

Fig. 3-3: Flow chart of project-type technical cooperation



experts provide instruction to enable counterparts to make use of supplied analytical devices, machine tools, and experimental instruments in activities requiring the use of such equipment.

Ownership and partnership

Projects are supervised jointly by personnel from the recipient country and Japan. Nevertheless, "ownership" of the project lies with the recipient country, while Japan is involved in "partnership" through the provision of cooperation and support.

For example, the costs required for execution of a project are on principle borne by the recipient country. But if the recipient is unable to acquire adequate funds, Japan pays for the provision of experimental and research facilities and farm land, research, and organization of seminars. These are referred to as "local costs*." Japanese expenditure decreases as the years go by with a corresponding increase in expenditure by the recipient country. Once cooperation has come to an end, the recipient country is able to continue the project by itself.

If the recipient country is unable to provide buildings for technical cooperation, Japan offers grant aid for procuring the facilities, materials and equipment, including the buildings themselves, which are then used as the bases for technical cooperation.

Before the project has ended, the extent to which the original targets of the project have been achieved, the effects of the project, and the prospects for the recipient country being able to take over the project by itself are evaluated. When considered necessary, the length of the project may be extended by one to two years. Aftercare cooperation may occasionally be provided three years or more after the conclusion of a project. The aims in this case are to reinvigorate the project and to assist the recipient country to manage the project on its own.

Participatory methods (PCM*) are adopted from the planning stage with project-type technical cooperation in order to encourage self-help on the part of developing countries and to enhance better ownership of development projects by these countries.

Results and content of projects

Social development cooperation

Human resources development in the field of social development cooperation is occurring in connection with road traffic, harbors, marine transportation, housing, telecommunications and other areas of social infrastructure*, occupational training, labor safety and health, global issues such as the environment, disaster prevention, education, and poverty.

An increasingly prominent feature of sectoral differentiation of projects is the high proportion of projects aimed at technical training of personnel to work in the field of occupational training and on the construction, maintenance and management of social infrastructure such as roads and communications. Requests for cooperation have tended to grow more complex and intricate in recent years. We have seen more projects especially in the fields of higher education (telecommunications engineering, setting up university departments of engineering, etc.), environmental areas such as flood control and soil erosion, prevention of earthquake damage, maintenance of biological diversity*, and support with measures to alleviate poverty.

In the case of technical training projects, transfer of specific skills along conventional lines is no longer adequate in itself. There is a growing need for organizations and institutions which ensure that the transferred skills becoming firmly rooted in organizations and that the recipient country is able to manage projects for itself once Japanese cooperation has ended.

In the environmental and disaster prevention fields response must be offered to global issues across national borders. Efforts are therefore being made to reinforce mutual links by networking between related projects and exchanging and sharing related information and research.

Higher education projects in ASEAN also involve networking, and their results are being improved through international seminars.

Sixty-one projects were implemented in 23 countries in FY1997.



Cooperation with health and medical care

Maintenance of health is a basic desire of every human being and should be regarded as an inalienable human right. For local communities and large social units such as nations, personal health is also an indispensable factor in the creation of a healthy society.

But the situation in many developing countries is that the health and the lives of many people -- in particular those in the more vulnerable sectors of society such as women and children -- are threatened by endemic diseases, poor hygiene, malnutrition, severe working conditions, lack of health education, and erroneous customs.

The average mortality rate among children under age five in the LLDCs* in 1996 was 171 per thousand births, a figure 24 times higher than that in advanced countries, where the mortality rate averages seven per thousand. Most of these deaths can be attributed to infectious ailments, malnutrition, and inadequate care during childbirth.

In addition, there has been a rapid spread in recent years in newly occurring infectious diseases such as AIDS and in recurring contagious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria. There is thus a growing need for aid in the field of health and medical care.

Health and medical care projects are concerned with training medical practitioners in developing countries, improving medical institutions, and raising technical skills. This is one of the forms of aid most directly linked to the needs of people in developing countries.

Altogether 39 health and medical care cooperation projects were implemented in FY1997 in diverse fields including improvements to clinical treatment at hospitals, basic and applied research on contagious diseases, training of medical practitioners, and safety and quality control of foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, and vaccines. These projects have contributed to the training of a broad spectrum of personnel including health administrative officers, researchers, and local health care workers.

We have seen an increase in recent years especially in projects in the field of public hygiene and local health care in line with the Primary Health Care Approach*, aimed at benefiting local

communities. Such cooperation at grass-roots level is likely to increase in the future in linkage with cooperation at policy level.

Project-type technical cooperation is supplemented by the supply of equipment and pharmaceutical products. In particular, JICA has joined with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to supply vaccines and vaccination equipment to stop the spread of contagious diseases among children. JICA is also helping with the supply of AIDS testing equipment.

The health and medical care program and the population and family planning program (to be referred to later) will be merged from FY1998 as the population and health development cooperation program, the aim being in future to tackle related activities on the basis of a more comprehensive approach.

Population and family planning cooperation

The total global population is expected to reach between 7.7 and 11.1 billion by 2050. This increase will occur almost entirely in developing countries.

The high infant mortality rate, the consequent high birth rate, and the ensuing problems of extreme population increase are hindering social and economic progress in developing countries. On a personal level, the frequent birth and death of children puts strains on family life, contributes to poverty, and deprives people of happiness.

Population increase does not merely affect developing countries by making food more scarce and damaging the environment: it is an issue with potentially global repercussions.

Efforts to deal with the population problem have in recent years begun to focus not merely on population education and the diffusion of family planning methods but also on the ideals of WID*, which emphasize the role played by women in development, and on the concept of "reproductive health*," which emphasizes women's health and rights bearing on sex and reproduction.

When working on population and family planning cooperation projects, JICA is thus concerned not only with conventional activities relating to family planning and maternal and child health: projects include other elements such as

assuring that women can retain their health throughout their lives and the participation of women in society. The eleven such projects implemented in FY1997 contributed to institutional improvements and personnel training in this area.

In addition to project-type technical cooperation, JICA is providing developing countries with simple medical equipment for improving standards of maternal and child health care, contraceptive devices, basic pharmaceutical products, and special population and family planning equipment (audiovisual teaching aids, etc.) in linkage with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the JOCV's "Front Line Project."

Cooperation with the agricultural, forestry and fishery industries

Cooperation with the agricultural, forestry and fishery industries is intended to contribute to increased food production, higher income and standards of living for farmers, rectification of related regional disparities, effective use of resources, and environmental conservation.

These aims are achieved through the development of agricultural, forestry and fishing methods appropriate to developing regions, training of agricultural extension workers, research conducted at universities and in laboratories, and the conservation and appropriate use of forestry and marine resources. Projects in this area have increased in recent years: 97 were implemented in 41 countries in FY1997.

The content of cooperation has also become more diverse. We are seeing, for instance, 1) cooperation projects incorporating elements relating to poverty alleviation, community participation and WID (integrated rural development, improvements in living conditions in rural villages, social forestry), 2) cooperation projects on agricultural statistics, residual agricultural chemicals, surveys of effects on coastal sea environments, and management and control of distribution of agricultural produce, 3) projects connected with resources and the environment (sustainable agricultural development*, conservation of genetic resources, forest conservation, and control over fishery

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Indonesia: The Forest Fire Prevention Management Project

Effective also in response to the fires of 1997

The large-scale forest fires which occurred in Indonesia in 1997 resulted not only in loss of forest: the smoke they generated caused considerable damage also in neighboring countries. The Forest Fire Prevention Management Project (project-type technical cooperation) was started in 1996 and proved highly useful on this occasion for strengthening the fire monitoring system and providing information of use in fire-fighting activities.

The main causes of the forest fires were the use of fire to create agricultural plantation land and to open up industrial forest, and the application of slash-and-burn

farming methods which got out of control. These factors coincided with an unusually long period of drought and fire caused by the underground distribution of coal and marl, resulting in large-scale forest fires. The weakness of Indonesia's early warning system for forest fires has often been pointed out.

The aims of the Forest Fire Prevention Management Project are to prevent the occurrence of forest fires and to inhibit the spread of fires if they do occur. These aims are being achieved by improving methods of early response to forest fires by the central government and methods for preventing forest fires

or extinguishing them as rapidly as possible on the local level.

The central government is using satellite information (Himawari, NOAA) to monitor areas where fires are most likely to occur and smoke currents. The 1997 fires were monitored and extinguished on the basis of this information.

On the local level, forest fire prevention is taking place with the participation of local communities. Educational activities are under way, a campaign is being implemented to enable the early extinguishing of fires, and methods of social forestry are being applied to the creation of model forests which prevent the spread of fire.

resources), and 4) support with the introduction of democracy and the market economy (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Eastern Europe).

As was mentioned earlier, responding appropriately to diversifying cooperation needs is an essential aspect of cooperation in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. JICA is thus taking the utmost care to ascertain the content of requests made by recipient countries and the state of technical development in each country and to formulate projects which are entirely in line with the needs of the recipient country. We also need to encourage linkage with other forms of cooperation, to expand our expert recruitment system through linkage with local governments, and to strengthen the domestic support structure for projects.

The expansion in the geographical scope of projects is resulting in an increase in cooperation provided in areas with severe living conditions. Projects must therefore be executed with adequate consideration given to the safety and health of the experts themselves.

Cooperation in mining and manufacturing industry

Cooperation in the field of mining and manufacturing industry is occurring over a wide range of areas from promotion of small and medium scale enterprises in developing countries to support with the cultivation and consolidation of basic industries to underpin future economic development. Thirty-seven such projects were implemented in 17 countries in FY1997.

Cooperation has increased recently with the establishment of institutions for upgrading the industrial infrastructure through, for instance, industrial standardization, quality control and increased productivity, which are needed to keep pace with rapid advances in industrialization. Cooperation has also been stepped up on issues incorporating technology transfer in areas such as response to environmental and energy problems. These increases are the product of the diversification and the greater sophistication of requirements presented by developing countries. Recent examples of cooperation have all taken account of the three points described hereunder.

The first of these is the adoption of environmental conservation measures. In their

headlong rush toward economic development, developing countries often tend to overlook measures to prevent pollution and other environmental concerns. This is because they have directed all their available personnel and funds into development and have no leeway to direct any further resources to environmental questions.

In order to deal with such problems, "offer-type" projects (active cooperation in environmental conservation) are being carried out. The idea behind these projects is to propose environmental conservation methods appropriate to conditions in recipient countries through recourse to the extensive technology in the field of prevention of pollution accumulated by the Japanese industrial world, and to enable cooperation to start immediately on the basis of the proposals made. Cooperation of this type was carried out in FY1997 in the four countries of Brazil, Malaysia, Thailand, and China.

The second point is expansion of support for countries moving to market economies. Active support is being provided particularly in connection with new aid requirements in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In FY1997, cooperation with productivity enhancement, energy-saving policy, resources exploration, and information processing was extended to Hungary, Bulgaria, Mongolia and Vietnam.

The third point is the promotion of linked cooperation between projects, the aims here being to encourage trade and investment and to provide support with liberalization centering on the countries of ASEAN and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum constantly in view. In FY1997, three seminars in which ASEAN nations participated were held on the topics of industrial standardization and industrial ownership rights* in the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

3. Technical Training of Overseas Participants



A firefighting skills course has so far been held ten times with the cooperation of Kitakyushu City.

Outline of the Program

Aims and significance

Providing technical training to participants from developing countries is one of the most basic programs implemented by JICA. The aim of this program is to bring technicians, researchers and administrators from the developing world for training in Japan or in certain developing countries to equip them with the knowledge and skills required in their own countries.

This training program has been discussed by the Development Assistance Committee* (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Its importance is internationally recognized as a key to the effective development of human resources and establishment of organizations and institutions in developing countries.

The scale of this program has grown steadily since its launch in 1954. It has also become more and more diverse and sophisticated in content. In

FY1997, training was provided to 7,263*1 new participants from 152 countries and regions. The total number of participants who have received training in Japan since the inception of this program is now almost 127,400.

The participants have included many who have gone on to assume high-level governmental posts, including the present Prime Minister of Mongolia, the Paraguayan Minister of Health and Welfare, and the Romanian Minister of Tourism. The JICA technical training program is thus helping to train people who will come to play leading roles in social and economic development in developing countries, i.e. the "leaders of tomorrow."

Features of the program

A feature of JICA's technical training program is that it unfolds largely in Japan. In this respect it differs from other forms of cooperation, which generally occur in developing countries. It is implemented with the participation of related government ministries and agencies, universities and research institutions, hospitals, companies and other locations where participants can receive training, interpreters and supervisors, travel agencies, hotel staff, people involved in the running of the JICA international centers where the training participants stay while in Japan, international exchange organizations, and local communities.

Another feature of the program is that it covers virtually the whole of the developing world: participants from nearly 150 countries have visited Japan to date, and there has been a significant increase in the range of subjects in which training is available.

*1: Excluding in-country and third-country training.

Yet another feature is the capacity of the program to respond actively and flexibly to new aid requirements and new recipient nations which emerge in accordance with changes in global issues* and in the constitution of the international community.

Supported thus by the cooperation and participation of many people, the JICA training program is being implemented throughout Japan. As well as fulfilling its primary role of transferring technology from Japan to the developing world, the program gives participants the opportunity to meet people from other countries, and in this respect offers a valuable opportunity to enhance friendly relations with other countries and to build relationships based on mutual trust.

Program trends and topics

Recent trends

Since the breakdown of Cold War structures in international relations, training programs have been expanded to several new aid recipient nations and regions including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, South Africa, Palestine, Central Asia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Croatia. Training is being provided centering on courses tailored to the development needs of individual countries and regions as follows:

(1) Support with the transition to a market economy and improvements in legal systems in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos;

(2) Educational administration and support with the fostering of medium and small scale enterprises in South Africa;

(3) Business management and primary education in Palestine;

(4) Support with the transition to a market economy in the countries of Central Asia;

(5) Business management and measures to combat leakage of water pipes in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In terms of the proportions of technical participants per region in FY1997, 46 percent were from Asia, followed by 20 percent from Latin America, 15 percent from Africa, 10 percent from the Middle East, 7 percent from

Europe, and 3 percent from Oceania. The major increases in numbers per region in recent years have been from Africa, Europe and Oceania.

JICA is also actively tackling various new development issues, especially the global environment, support with the new field of aid represented by the transition to a market economy and democracy, social welfare, and WID* (Women in Development).

In the environmental field, for instance, around 100 training courses are being held on topics such as prevention of global warming, conservation of coral reefs, and acid rain monitoring. About 40 courses are currently available on the transition to a market economy and democracy. Especially worthy of note are (1) seminars aimed at promoting the transition to a market economy in Central and Eastern Europe, Vietnam, Syria, etc.; (2) macroeconomic management and fiscal and monetary policy in Central Asia and Caucasia; (3) modernization of legal systems and support for the judicature in Vietnam and Cambodia.

In the field of social welfare and WID, two seminars aimed at senior administrative officers are being held on methods for assisting those with visual disabilities and on the advancement of women.

In recent years support for South-South cooperation* has become an important topic which encourages developing countries to act as donors* (i.e. aid-providing governments and institutions) themselves, but we need to strive harder in the field of third-country training*, which is the central vehicle for such cooperation.

In FY1997, 126 courses were presented and were attended by 1,800 technical training participants. We have striven in recent years to create training courses which provide an immediate response to contemporary needs. Examples include (1) courses based on partnership programs in Thailand and Singapore; (2) courses aimed at supporting the Palestinian peace process; (3) courses based on the "Partnership for Progress*" (PPF) concept proposed by the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) ministerial conference; and (4) courses based on tie-ups with international agencies.

Tasks for the future

Training programs must be based on an accurate assessment of the needs of developing countries. High-level training programs are pointless unless they satisfy the requirements of recipient countries.

JICA is reorganizing its Training Affairs Department along regional lines to ensure that the needs of the recipient country are properly ascertained and to ensure a finely tailored response to them. It is now possible to draw up optimum training programs for individual countries and regions. In particular, the number of training courses set up to deal with the needs of individual countries (i.e. country-focused group training courses) has increased. To ascertain more accurately the training requirements of specific countries, we are also heightening the rigor of field studies carried out by study teams dispatched

from Japan and by JICA's overseas offices.

Another important issue is raising the quality of training courses. More than 450 group courses and specially instituted courses are being reviewed sectorally to improve their content, and study sessions aimed at creating courses responsive to changes in training needs are being held. These sessions have treated topics in eight fields (environment, agriculture, WID, industry, information processing, health and medical care, etc.).

These training programs do not amount merely to the intake of technical training participants: their effectiveness in fostering human resources in developing countries needs to be enhanced by forging organic links between them and other programs. From this standpoint, close links must be made with the dispatch of experts, project-type technical cooperation, grant aid, and the supply of equipment and materials.

Front Line

Nagoya International Training Center (Aichi Prefecture)

Special training courses to support regional social development of the community participation type



When implementing projects closely connected to local communities in developing countries such as those involving poverty alleviation and environmental conservation, emphasis is placed upon a "community participation*" approach whereby local communities take part in the planning and execution of a project. In such projects, local communities are called upon to contribute actively to social development in

their respective regions.

With a view to encouraging regional social development based on community participation in developing countries, since FY1997, JICA's Nagoya International Training Center has been holding a training course entitled "Participatory Local Social Development: Theories and Practices."

This course is intended for people working in local government and NGOs* involved in local development and its aim is to enable such people to plan and execute regional social development projects of the community participation type in accordance with conditions in their respective countries and areas.

In FY1997, training was given to 13 regional development officers from local governments and NGOs in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The training incorporated not only lectures but also group debates, workshops, tours of inspection and other practical activities. The participants were able to study the various methods required in regional social development of the community participation type.

In the context of this training program, participants visited a site of community-participatory development in Nagano Prefecture. They observed community center activities and study activities implemented jointly by local government and communities and visited an unusual company which employs elderly people. These experiences gave the participants the chance to see for themselves how regional social development is occurring with local community participation in Japan and to deepen their understanding of the approach underlying it.

Japan's ODA policy emphasizes public participation in aid projects, and it is within the context of this policy that training projects are implemented nationwide to make effective use of the outstanding training organizations present throughout Japan. The idea is that training programs should make a major contribution to promoting public participation in aid projects by taking full advantage of the technical training courses being held in Japan.

Content of programs

A comprehensive range of training courses

JICA is currently providing training for an

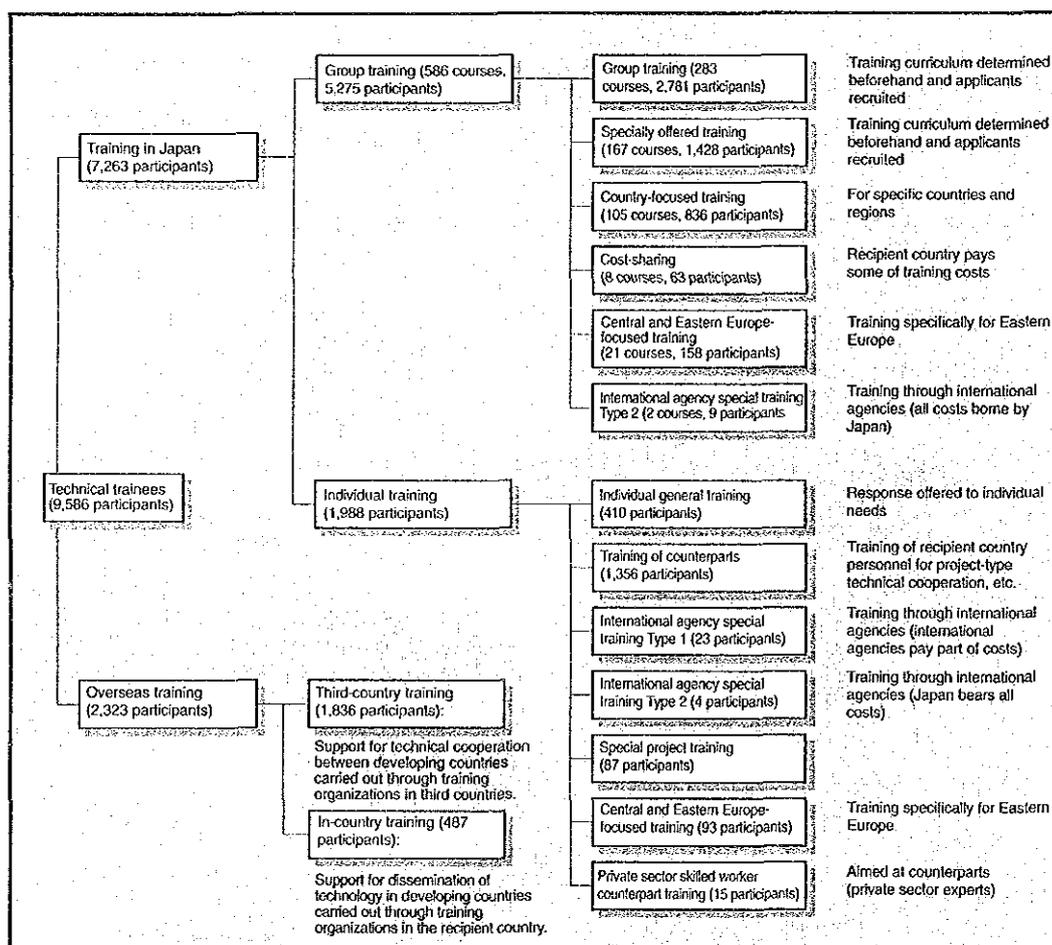
annual total of about 9,600 participants from developing countries, 7,300 of whom receive training in Japan and 2,300 of whom receive in-country training* or third-country training.

JICA offers a wide variety of courses to enable programs to be executed effectively and efficiently. These can be classified into two major categories:

(1) Training of overseas participants in Japan for the purpose of technology transfer (group training, individual training, special training for specific regions and countries, etc.);

(2) Training outside Japan aimed at transferring skills and technology appropriate to the social, cultural and linguistic conditions of developing regions (in-country training, third-country training).

■ Fig. 3-4: Types of training and new training participants in FY1997



In-country training and third-country training are provoking much interest both in Japan and overseas in that they aim to disseminate systematic and basic technology in line with the recipient's needs through the host country (i.e. the country where the training is provided) or a key region.

In-country training: disseminating the fruits of technical cooperation

In-country training denotes a method of training under which instruction is provided in their home countries to their fellow-countrymen

by people who have themselves previously been trained through technical cooperation provided by Japan.

This method makes possible the effective transfer of technology from Japan to the fringe areas of developing countries. Because it has a direct impact on raising standards of living in these countries, the method is highly regarded in Japan and overseas. And since local technicians are trained in their own languages, linguistic communication presents no problems and technology transfer can take place smoothly in line with local conditions.

Front Line

Chugoku International Center (Hiroshima Prefecture)

An approach to care of the elderly involving the whole community



Japan is set to become one of the world's most long-lived societies in the 21st century. The ageing of society is ongoing in developing countries and is being spurred on by improvements in standards of medical treatment and falling birth rates. Care of the elderly is a matter which calls for attention worldwide.

For the past 30 years in the town of Mitsugi in the east of Hiroshima Prefecture, the Mitsugi Municipal Hospital has been implementing a system under which nurses, therapists and home-helpers visit

private homes and offer elderly people care and advice. The municipality also operates a "welfare bank" system which provides families with training in at-home nursing and uses local volunteers to supply meals.

Mitsugi has a population of around 8,300, of which elderly people account for 24 percent. Of this number, only 16 are bedridden. Mitsugi has thus gained a nationwide reputation as an ideal place to live.

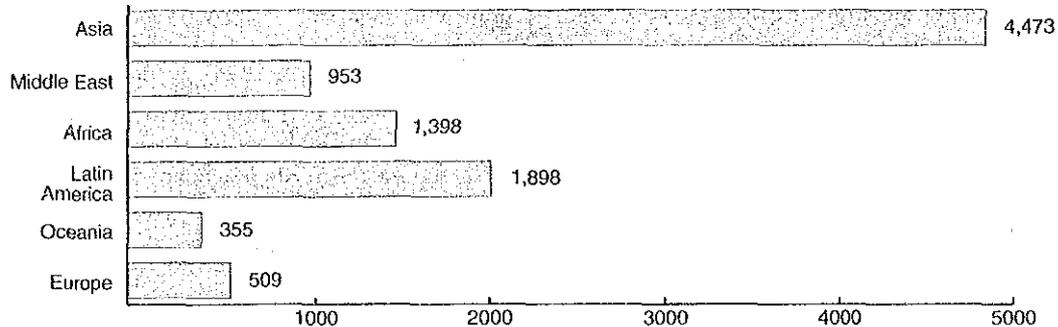
The Chugoku International Center began a training course named "Comprehensive Community Care System Linking a Regional Core Hospital" in FY1997 with cooperation from the Mitsugi Municipal Hospital. Eleven people working in the fields of local health and welfare from eight countries in Asia and Latin America took part in this course, which lasted just under

three months.

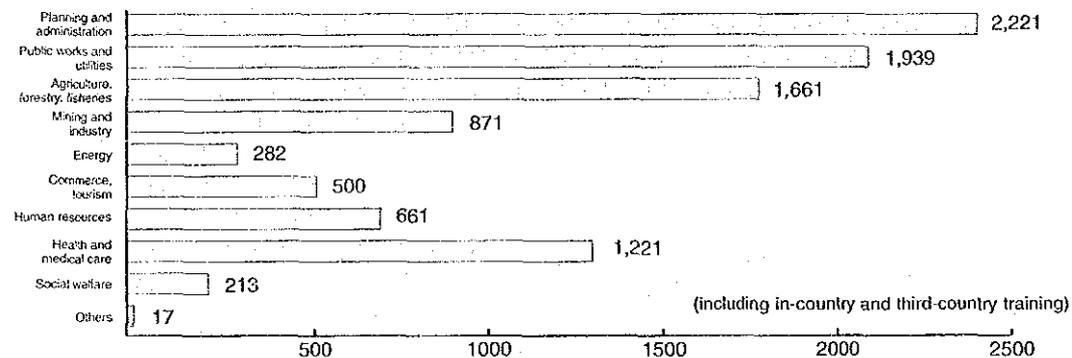
The course began with lectures on the Gold Plan and medical care and welfare for the elderly at the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Hiroshima Women's College, and the Hiroshima Junior College of Health and Welfare. Participants then went on to hands-on training in Mitsugi and Kamogawa in Okayama Prefecture. They took part in functional recovery training at care facilities for elderly people, accompanied nurses on home visits, coming into direct contact with elderly people and chatting to them in Japanese.

Having learnt about how care is provided for the elderly in Japan, the training participants all voiced the opinion that, in developing countries with limited financial resources, a start should be made with local support of the elderly centering on the family.

■ Table 3-2: Training participants per region (FY1997)



■ Table 3-3: Training participants per sector (FY1997)



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ASEAN Financial and Economic Policy Seminar

Urgent response to financial instability in Asia

The countries of ASEAN for several years maintained high levels of growth by increasing exports and encouraging overseas investment. However, the crisis that hit the Thai currency in July 1997 sparked off falls in other currencies in the region. This crisis revealed the fragility of a financial system which relies excessively on foreign funds. We were made aware of the latent susceptibility of Asian economies to shocks of external provenance.

As part of the emergency measures taken to deal with this currency crisis, JICA took advantage of the flexibility offered by the training program to hold an ASEAN Finance and Policy Seminar for three days between March 24 and 26, 1998.

This was an example of the early

implementation of the Hashimoto initiative (Japan-ASEAN integrated human resources development program) proposed by the former prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, in talks between the leaders of Japan and ASEAN.

Policy officials, including vice ministers and bureau directors, from financial and currency bureaus and development bureaus in Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia were invited to this seminar. Discussions were held on the background and current status of the currency crisis and on short-term and medium-term policy toward the crisis, the aim being to discover ways in which sure economic growth could be achieved in the future.

On the Japanese side, the

seminars were attended by top-ranking economists and lecturers sent from the Institute of Fiscal and Monetary Policy in the Ministry of Finance, the IMF, and the Asian Development Bank. Lectures were given by experts on the current state of Asian monetary and capital markets. The participants presented their ideas and took part in debates on how individual countries were responding to the situation on the policy level.

At the end of the seminar, one of the ASEAN participants who had thought highly of the seminar stated his hope that encouraging the exchange of information between countries in this manner would prove useful in dealing with the economic crisis in the ASEAN region.

4. Youth Invitation Program



Koror Primary School in Palau and Ise Municipal Ominato Primary School have established a sister-school relationship through the Youth Invitation Program.

Outline of the Program

Aims and significance

The Youth Invitation Program forms a part of JICA's technical cooperation. Young people who will determine the future course of developing countries are invited to Japan for one month in accordance with their areas of specialization. They study current conditions in Japan and mix with Japanese young people of the same age and with the same interests as themselves. This experience is intended to enhance mutual understanding and to foster true friendship and trust.

This program was launched in May 1983 when Japan's then prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, visited the ASEAN countries. In 1984, the first year of the program, 748 young people came to Japan.

The number of countries and visitors on this program subsequently increased, with 1,593 young people from a total of 85 countries and regions (Asia, Oceania, Africa, and Latin America) visiting in FY1997. Altogether 16,602 young people have visited Japan on this program during the fourteen years since its inception.

The young invitees are aged between 18 and 35 and occupy leading positions in the fields of

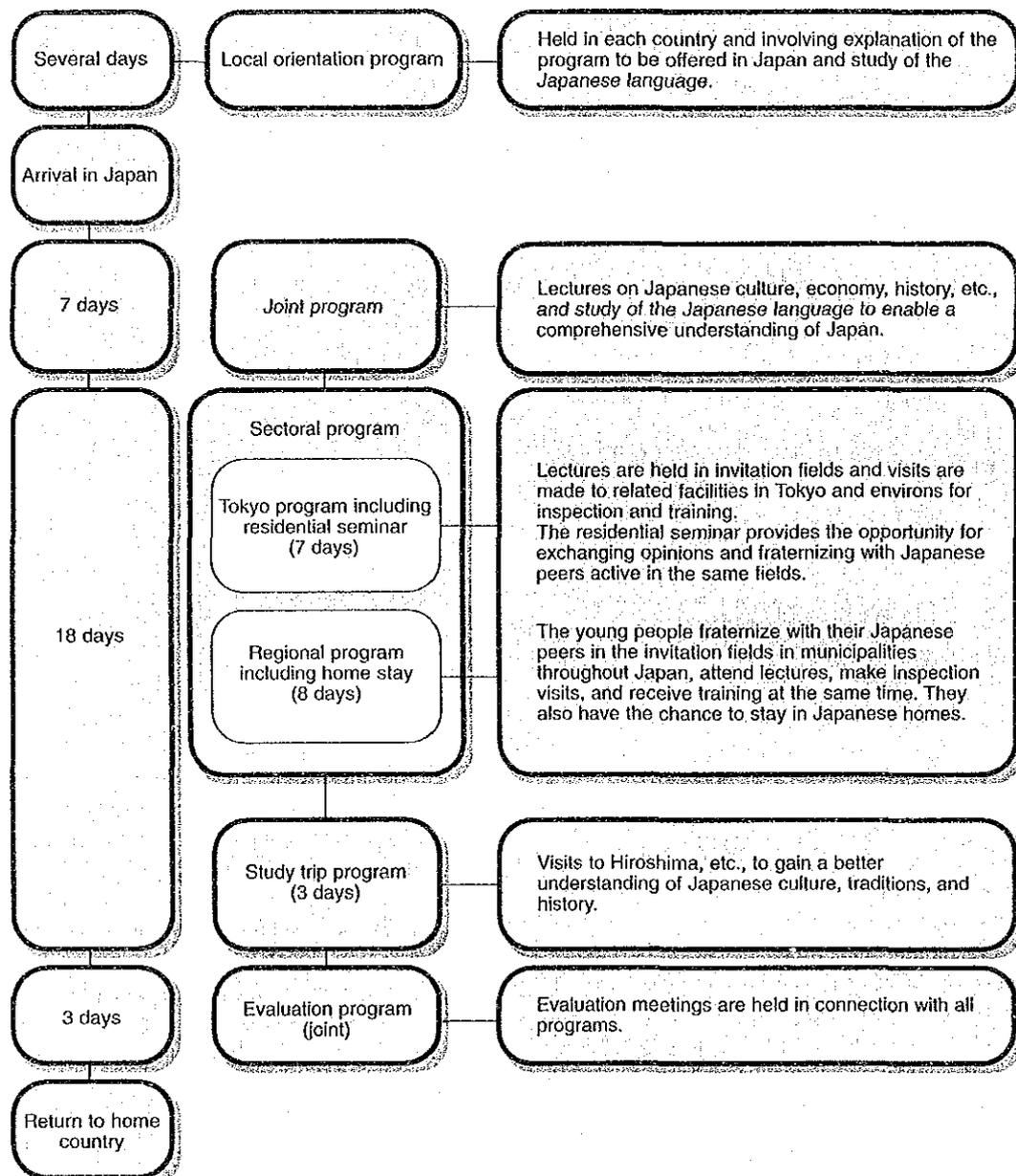
economics, education, social development, agriculture, environmental conservation, social welfare, and health care.

groups organized according to field of specialization. The Youth Invitation Program is arranged as shown in Table 3-4. The young people stay in Japan for a period of 28 days.

Method of invitation

The method of invitation involves the formation of either single- or mixed-nationality

■ Table 3-4: Structure of Youth Invitation Program



Aftercare

Alumni associations consisting of former participants in this program have been established in individual ASEAN countries. Meetings of a liaison committee made up of representatives of the national alumni associations within ASEAN have been held regularly since FY1987. The meeting in FY1997 was held in Thailand and featured debates on various topics including how this program might be improved and supported.

In order to deepen the bonds of friendship and trust established in the course of the participants'

visits to Japan on the Youth Invitation Program, aftercare teams made up of the young Japanese people and host families, who came into contact with the visitors during their stay, and officials from related organizations are dispatched to the participants' countries.

In FY1997, such teams were sent to four ASEAN countries and China, where they renewed their friendship with participants in the Youth Invitation Program. Efforts to create fresh opportunities for building on the friendships established through the program have multiplied in recent years, especially at the individual, group and local government levels.

Front Line

Shikoku Branch (Kagawa Prefecture)

Friendship between Kochi and Laos growing into the 21st century



International cooperation is an indispensable ingredient in world peace and stability, and it is in this context that the need arises for international understanding and exchange both between countries and on the community level.

In the area covered by JICA's Shikoku Branch, considerable success has been achieved within the framework of the Youth Invitation Program by related organizations which every year invite groups of young people to participate in exchange activities. One example is the reception of young people from Laos by the Kochi Prefecture International

Exchange Association.

The Association was formed in 1994 when a group of civic volunteers centering on former JICA experts living in Kochi Prefecture expressed interest in exchange with Laos, which had by then opened itself up to the world. The Association sent people to Laos to observe the situation there.

The Association began by setting up a Kochi-Laos Association aimed at promoting primary school building projects in Laos. While continuing to seek funds for the construction of schools, the Association provided the opportunity for schoolchildren who had taken part in the activities to visit Laos to take part in "Primary School Work Camps to Encourage Friendship Between Kochi and Laos."

When Laos was added to the JICA Youth Invitation Program, the Laos Association provided powerful backup for the Exchange Association's host activities.

The Exchange Association makes provision for the dispatch of friendship missions including host families and other related parties of the Youth Invitation Program. Missions have been sent by the Exchange Association to visit the workplaces of Laotian young people after their return to Laos. The Association also keeps an eye on JICA projects and JOCV activities in Laos. The Laos Association plays a major role in encouraging and coordinating these activities.

FY1997 marked the third year of the Youth Invitation Program. This is one of the few examples in Japan of a regionally based host program, and its regional flavor is gradually being intensified. Building of the fourth primary school was completed in March 1998.

These results owe much to JICA programs and to the networking of regional NGO activities.

5. Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts



An Indonesian expert sent to Tanzania as a third-country expert.

Outline of the Program

Aims and significance

Dispatch of technical cooperation experts contributes to human resources development on the national and sectoral levels, to the creation of organizations and institutions, to self-help on the part of developing countries, and to sustainable development* in these countries. This is because the activities involve technology transfer* and the submission of proposals in line with actual conditions in a specific country to administrators and engineers who play key roles in the economic and social development of developing countries.

Features of the activities

Depending on the method employed, dispatch of experts can be divided into two categories, (1) dispatch for project-type technical cooperation or development cooperation, etc., and (2) dispatch in response to individual requests from developing countries or international agencies. Experts falling within the latter category are referred to as individual experts.

Individual expert dispatch enables a flexible and finely tailored response to requests from developing countries. It is also quick: experts are sent within a year of a request being submitted, and in cases of urgent need they can be sent

within a matter of months.

Other important features of this system are that it achieves major results with comparatively little expenditure and that it is "aid with a human face," incorporating a wide range of activities including direct technical transfer and guidance provided at educational and training institutions, organization-building and management, and policy advice to government officials.

Another feature of these activities is that they give Japanese people the chance to study the recipient country's culture and society as well as allowing the recipient country to learn from Japan's example. This by-product of dispatch activities helps stimulate Japan into thinking about how the nation wishes to project itself within the international community.

Project trends

Expansion of regions receiving cooperation

Many countries in the former Communist bloc are currently moving toward introducing democracy and the market economy. These countries are aiming at a smooth and stable transition to a new economic system, and there has been an increase in recent years in the number of requests being made to Japan for advice and guidance especially in connection with policy issues. In response to these requests, JICA has begun sending experts anew to countries in Central Asia and Africa.

In FY1997, 1,762 experts (including those continuing their work from the previous year) were sent to 106 countries. Of this number, 49 percent were sent to Asia, 11 percent to the Middle East, 10 percent to Africa, 20 percent to Latin America, 2 percent to Oceania, 3 percent to Europe, and 5 percent to international agencies. This was the first year that Japanese experts were sent in particular to Antigua & Barbuda, Angola, and the Republic of South Africa.

Broadening response schemes

Among the requests for cooperation received from former Communist countries, there has been an increase in those seeking policy

proposals of a complexity not previously evident in the requests submitted by countries looking for advice from Japan. A new system of intellectual support has therefore been instituted to provide the most appropriate response to such needs.

Support with the formulation of key government policies was begun in 1995 and ongoing cooperation has since been provided for Vietnam, Poland and Uzbekistan. The dispatch of private sector advisory experts which was instituted in FY1997 has involved the dispatch of experts to Laos and Uzbekistan with cooperation from the Japanese private sector.

A private proposal-type intellectual aid seminar is being planned for FY1998, its aim being to come up with proposals which integrate the informed opinions of scholars, experts and the private sector and which will stimulate the establishment of new social and economic systems in these countries.

We have seen an increase in the number of countries which originally received aid from Japan but have now developed to the extent that, in certain fields, they now have the capacity to transfer technology to other developing countries. South-South cooperation*, which involves such countries cooperating with Japan to assist other developing countries, has been increasing in recent years. As far as individual experts are concerned, requests are now being received for third-country experts who, in comparison with Japanese experts, are likely to come from countries with natural environments similar to those of the recipient countries and which may themselves have similar technical goals.

The third-country expert dispatch program was begun in FY1994. In FY1997, 37 individual experts were dispatched, including Indonesians with expertise in paddy field cultivation using water buffalo who were sent to Tanzania. This program is regarded highly by recipient countries and is proving very effective when linked to other forms of cooperation such as project-type technical cooperation and the dispatch of individual experts from Japan. This is an area ripe for development in the future.

Increase in the range of personnel

As well as raising quality, ensuring quantity is another important aspect of ODA at present. In the individual expert dispatch program too, we are striving to ensure that sufficient numbers of experts are available for dispatch in response to the diversification and increasingly sophisticated content of requests.

As well as employing a system whereby related government ministries and agencies are requested to recommend specific individuals, we are also strengthening our existing development specialist system (JICA's own professional expert system), our associate specialist system, and our expert registration system.

Public recruitment of experts took place for the first time in FY1997, and resulted in the dispatch of one expert to Malaysia and another to Mongolia. This scheme will be expanded further in FY1998, and we can anticipate the activities of people with an active interest in involvement in development aid.

Project tasks and responses

The importance of policy advisors

Recent technical expert dispatch projects have

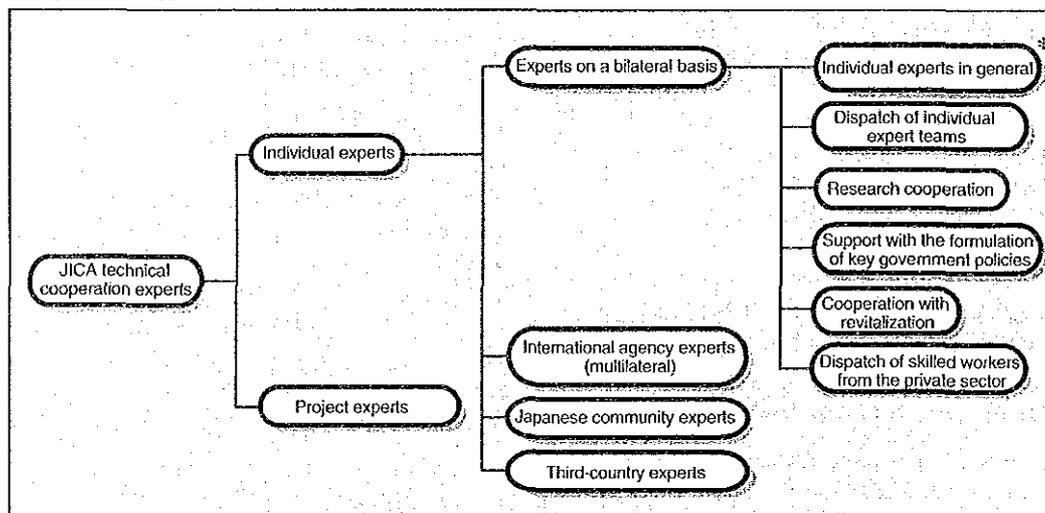
entailed not only the dispatch of experts to give advice at government departments (agricultural and public works ministries, etc.) involved in the implementation of projects in the recipient country; demand has increased also for policy advisors to work in the fiscal and monetary sector, for instance in ministries of finance, and in the higher echelons of government such as the prime minister's office.

This situation has arisen because developing countries are attracted by the flexibility and mobility of individual experts and are seeking advice on how they, as recipients of aid, can make aid more effective and maintain the momentum of development.

Sending advisors to the heart of government has many advantages also as far as Japan is concerned in that it enables us to take an active part in aid projects from the identification and formulation stages. Another important point is that experts allocated to core departments and to secretariats and planning departments within governments can play a central role in linking and coordinating various aid projects under way in the countries or regions to which they are sent.

Dispatch of experts of the policy advisor type contributes to effective implementation of aid and is likely to increase in the future.

■ Figure 3-5: Types of expert dispatch



* Including private sector advisory experts and public participatory experts.

Studies on the background to requests

Japanese aid is premised upon the receipt of requests, but there are many countries which, although they have considerable development needs, are unable to produce requests because of an inability to formulate specific projects on their own.

In such cases we need to investigate the background to requests and make it easier for potential recipients to frame them. Overseas offices and policy advisors may provide assistance with identifying and formulating projects or, when necessary, study teams incorporating people with experience in relevant fields may be sent to engage in practical discussions aimed at identifying and formulating worthwhile projects.

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System of Dispatch of Public Participatory Experts

Responding to needs by increasing the scope of human resources

The range of agencies to which experts are being sent in developing countries has been expanding over recent years. It now includes not only central government ministries and departments but also regional governments and NGOs*. This development has brought about a diversification in the range of local counterparts* to whom the experts transfer their skills for development purposes.

On the other hand, the past few years have also seen an increase in demand for individuals of a type who are able to respond on the basis of a comprehensive approach embracing several fields such as economic welfare and social development, both of which are considered especially important in

the DAC new development strategy*, and people capable of responding appropriately to needs in areas which have little experience of receiving aid, such as African countries and countries in economic transition.

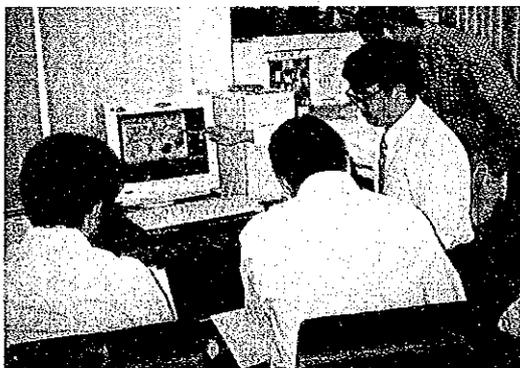
Personnel to be sent as individual experts were formerly recruited on the basis of recommendations from related government departments, but there is no guarantee that these departments and related organizations will have access to people possessing the skills required to respond to these new needs. Cooperation from local governments, universities and research institutes, private companies and NGOs must be obtained so that use can be made of

the experience, knowledge and human resources possessed by such institutions.

In FY1998, JICA instituted a system involving the dispatch of "public participatory experts" and allocated funds for obtaining ten long-term and ten short-term experts of this type. This system will make it possible to implement high-quality projects by steadily recruiting a wide range of personnel capable of dealing with increasingly diverse requests.

This new system will provide a new opportunity for Japanese people with an interest in development aid and personal involvement to take part in ODA. We look forward to seeing how this system develops in the future.

6. Provision of Equipment for Technical Cooperation



Installing equipment for the design of a telecommunications network in Honduras.

Outline of the Program

The program entailing the provision of equipment for technical cooperation has as its aim the supply of:

(1) Equipment and materials needed by *individual experts, senior overseas volunteers, and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)* in the performance of technical activities in the countries to which they have been assigned.

(2) Equipment needed by training participants to disseminate in their own countries skills acquired in the course of their training in Japan.

Technical literature in English and educational videos in English, French, Spanish and Arabic needed for technical cooperation are also provided.

One aim of the program is to enhance the effects of technical cooperation through an organic combination of people, things (equipment and materials) and information (documentation and educational videos). The program is referred to also as "independent equipment provision" to distinguish it from equipment provision based on other types of technical cooperation. This program was started in FY1964 by the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA), the forerunner of JICA, with a budget of about 50 million yen, and it has continued to expand ever since.

From FY1998 onward, the budget for this

program will be partially transferred to project costs for the intake of training participants, dispatch of technical cooperation experts, and JOCVs. Follow-up project costs will be newly instituted, and support will be provided for follow-up on completed projects involving technical cooperation and grant aid.

Program results

The content of the equipment provision program and figures for FY1997 are itemized below.

Provision of equipment and materials

1. Ordinary independent supply of equipment and materials

Provision of items valued between 10 and 100 million yen: 70 instances to 45 countries, total value 2.203 billion yen.

2. Small-scale independent provision of equipment and materials

Provision of items valued at less than 10 million yen: 48 instances to 37 countries, total value 234 million yen.

3. Provision of special WID*-related equipment

Provision of items valued at less than 10 million yen: 19 instances to 18 countries, total 79 million yen.

Equipment provision survey missions

1. Dispatch of equipment installation survey missions: 23 missions, 32 persons.

2. Dispatch of repair survey missions: 2 missions, 4 persons.

Implementation planning studies

Studies on the purposes and detailed specifications of the equipment and materials, details of accessories: 8 studies in 14 countries, 23 persons.

Provision of technical literature

Provision of technical literature and audiovisual teaching aids (videos) in foreign languages needed for technical cooperation: 6 million yen for documentation.

7. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers



A JOCV science teacher at a high school in Ghana.

Outline of the Program

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program assists and encourages the activities of young people who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development of developing countries on the basis of requests received from these countries.

In principle, JOCVs spend two years involved in cooperation activities primarily in developing countries, living and working with the local people. The experience greatly benefits the volunteers themselves as they strive to overcome the various difficulties which they face in their relations with local people and their work.

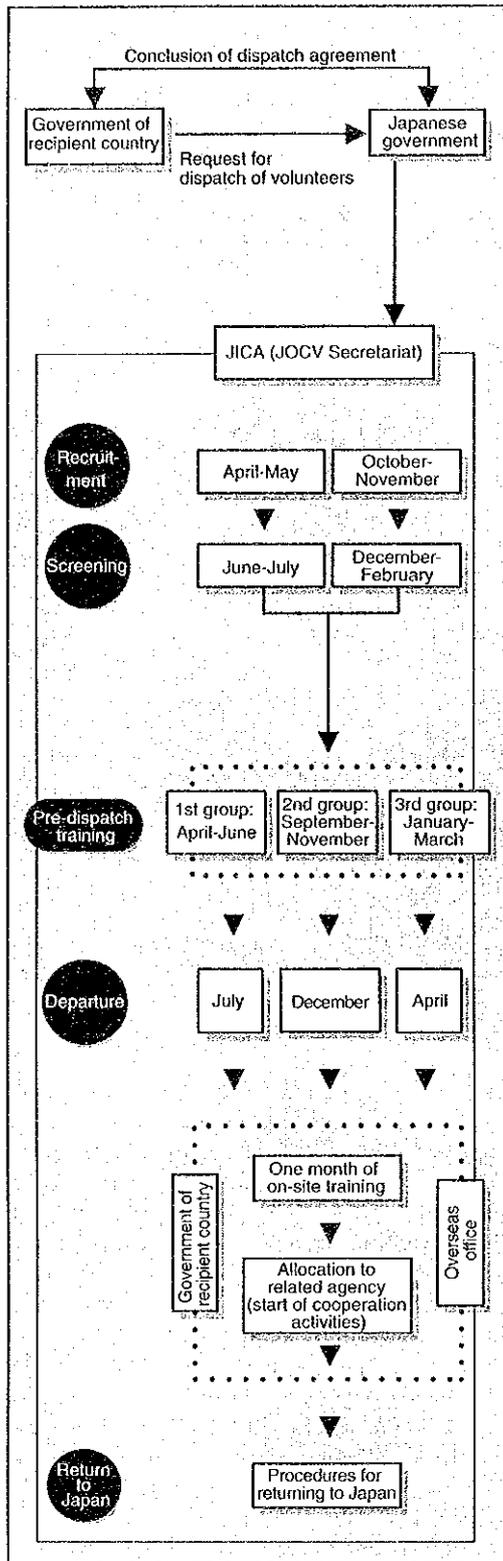
Cooperation is provided in seven fields,

namely agriculture, forestry and fishery, processing, maintenance and operation, civil engineering, public health care, education and culture, and sport. Around 160 occupations are involved.

The JOCV program was instituted in 1965, and began with the dispatch that year of the first batch of 26 volunteers to four countries (five to Laos, four to Cambodia, twelve to the Philippines, and five to Malaysia). As of the end of March 1998, 67 countries had concluded dispatch agreements with Japan, and eight more countries including Uzbekistan and Kyrgyz in Central Asia are likely to conclude similar agreements in the near future.

1,089 volunteers were sent anew in FY1997.

Fig. 3-6: The JOCV Dispatch System



As of the end of March 1998, there were 2,141 active volunteers (including both newly dispatched volunteers and those continuing from the previous year) active in 166 different fields of activity, making a total of 17,735 volunteers since the program's inception. These include regular volunteers, senior volunteers, short-term emergency volunteers, and part-time coordinators. In recent years there has been a high proportion of female volunteers: as of the end of March 1998, 47 percent of JOCVs working overseas were women, and the proportion of women among all JOCVs since the inception of the program has risen to 32 percent.

Senior volunteers are former JOCVs who have passed the senior qualifying examination set by the JOCV secretariat and who are then sent overseas once again after being selected through open recruitment in line with the demands of recipient countries. In addition, experienced volunteers are sent as United Nations volunteers on the basis of requests from the UN. At the end of March 1998, there were 52 senior volunteers and 37 United Nations volunteers working overseas, bring the totals for these two types of volunteer to 278 and 141 respectively.

The following activities are carried out at the JOCV secretariat in order to promote this program.

Content of program

From recruitment to dispatch

Recruitment and selection of volunteers

Volunteers are recruited twice a year, in spring and fall, with the cooperation of local government bodies and private organizations throughout Japan. In the spring 1997 recruitment campaign, explanatory sessions were held at 256 venues nationwide. They were attended by 15,732 people, of whom 3,483 applied. In the fall recruitment campaign, sessions were held at 261 venues. These were attended by 12,291 people, of whom 3,458 applied.

The selection process includes primary and secondary screening. Primary screening includes examinations in written English and technical skills, an aptitude test and examination of medical records. Secondary screening includes an interview on technical matters, a personal

interview, and a medical checkup.

In FY1997, there were 564 successful candidates in the spring and 557 in the fall.

Pre-dispatch training

Successful applicants undergo approximately 80 days of residential pre-dispatch training as probationary volunteers. The aim is to equip them with the capacity and the self-confidence to work overseas, the ability to adapt to unfamiliar cultures and environments, and linguistic ability to stand them in good stead during their two-year postings. The training program is divided into four major areas:

(1) Knowledge of the economic and social situation in the countries to which volunteers will be sent, international affairs, understanding of foreign cultures, etc.;

(2) Developing the basic stamina required to carry out aid activities;

(3) Knowledge and skills needed for living in developing countries, including instruction on the attitudes required of volunteers and matters such as road safety, etc.;

(4) Linguistic skills.

Courses are available in around 20 languages including English, French, Spanish, Swahili, and Nepalese.

Training takes place three times a year at three locations, the JOCV Hiroo Training Center in Tokyo's Shibuya ward, the Nihonmatsu JOCV Training Center in Fukushima Prefecture, and the Komagane JOCV Training Center in Nagano Prefecture.

Supplementary technical training

A training system known as "supplementary technical training" as outlined below has been instituted in order to improve practical skills and techniques required for cooperation activities and to ensure that volunteers are able to respond precisely to the requirements of recipient countries. A total of 430 people took part in these programs in FY1997. Training may last between several days and a year as necessary.

1. Training in skills appropriate to requests

Training of this type is provided for volunteers whose technical skills are adequate but who are considered to stand in need of additional instruction in line with the details of specific

requests.

It is provided also for senior volunteers and volunteers who have returned temporarily to Japan following extension of their period of service in cases where additional training is deemed necessary.

2. Training for supplementing practical skills in examination subjects

This training is provided for volunteers who have attained pass levels in basic technical knowledge during the secondary screening process but who are considered to possess insufficient practical skills.

Back-up for volunteer activities

Technical instructor (advisor) system

With the aim of raising the effectiveness of cooperation provided by JOCV, a technical advisor system consisting of experts in specific fields is available to give volunteers technical assistance and to ensure that the requests presented by developing countries are subjected to a close examination. The system also ensures that the specialized technical abilities of applicants are appropriately assessed during the recruitment and selection processes.

Looking after volunteers' health

A group of advisory doctors are on hand in the health center of the JOCV secretariat. During pre-dispatch training, volunteers are vaccinated against diseases such as polio and tetanus, and they attend courses on health and hygiene. They receive medical checkups once every six months during their postings. If they suddenly fall ill, they can phone Japan and receive advice on health and instructions on treatment.

Injury compensation

Compensation and disbursement for medical treatment and transportation are available if a volunteer happens to die, fall ill, or suffer injury during the period from the start of pre-dispatch training until return to Japan after completion of voluntary service overseas.

Careers advice for returning volunteers

Many volunteers are people who have given up

their previous jobs or have joined immediately after leaving school. In order to assist them with their future careers after they return to Japan, counselors are available at the Secretariat and JICA branches and centers within Japan to give them advice, to provide employment information, and to explore future career possibilities.

Of the 986 volunteers who returned to Japan in FY1996, by the end of FY1997, 711 had decided on their careers: 213 returned to their previous jobs, 382 took up employment (including self-employment), and 116 decided to continue their studies.

Related activities

In addition to the above-mentioned activities related to the dispatch of volunteers, various other activities, as described below, are carried

out by the JOCV secretariat to promote projects.

Advertising projects

The following activities are carried out to deepen the general public's understanding of JOCV's activities, to increase the number of people wishing to participate, and to enable the exchange of information with others involved in this field:

- (1) Preparation of project outlines and other publicity literature.
- (2) Planning and editing of development education materials.
- (3) Issue of the monthly magazine *Crossroads*.
- (4) Issue of *JOCV News* twice a month.
- (5) Issue of *JOCV Quarterly*, a publicity magazine for overseas readers.
- (6) Placing information and facilities at the disposal of the mass media.

Front Line

Tohoku Branch (Miyagi Prefecture)

Local students join the JOCVs for a day



JICA's Tohoku branch has been planning various events aimed at equipping local people with a better understanding of international cooperation. One of these events gives participants the chance to experience life at a JOCV training center for one day. This event aimed at increasing general awareness of the JOCVs is being carried out with the cooperation of the Nihonmatsu Training Center.

A total of 80 people were given this experience in FY1997. They were divided into two groups, a junior group consisting mainly of primary

school pupils and a senior group centering on university students. On the day, former JOCVs living locally came along to provide their support as volunteer leaders.

The program began with a "World Quiz" which was held on the bus heading toward the training institute. The questions included those about the countries to which the leaders had been sent. The participants were able to learn about unfamiliar aspects of developing countries through this engaging quiz format.

After arriving safely at the training institute, the participants were given a rough explanation of the training undergone by JOCV candidates, and they were then taken to observe a language lesson in progress. For lunch, they tackled a Bangladeshi curry with their bare hands.

The afternoon session began with an international fashion show. The participants came onto the stage

dressed in the costumes of various countries. They were delighted to see how a single sheet of cloth could be instantaneously transformed into a vivid dress. This was followed by a class in which the participants learnt how to give greetings in various languages. The members of the junior group felt highly pleased with themselves once they had mastered greetings in Swahili.

On the bus back home, the participants gave their impressions of the day, some saying how it had made them aware of how small the world in fact is, and others saying how much they hoped themselves one day to be able to contribute in some small way to helping developing countries realize their potential. One junior participant was greeted with loud clapping when he said that he hoped that the next time he visited the training institute would be to receive proper training as a JOCV.

Promotion of job retention scheme

Many people abandon the idea of joining the JOCVs or join only after resigning from their previous employment because their employers are unable to guarantee them reemployment once their period of service is over. JICA has therefore been approaching economic organizations, labor organizations, and private companies to persuade them to allow employees to retain their job status while they serve as volunteers.

There are certain companies and organizations which allow their employees to retain their professional status when they are sent overseas on voluntary service. JICA has made provisions for paying a certain amount of the personnel expenses and miscellaneous costs incurred by employers in this connection in order to reduce the burden placed on these companies and organizations.

These efforts on JICA's part have brought about an increase in the number of companies

and organizations accepting the principle that employees will have jobs waiting for them once they return from voluntary service. A total of 207 volunteers participated on this understanding in FY1997: six civil service employees, 95 local government employees, one government agency employee, and 105 employees of private companies.

Cooperation with related organizations

1. The Association to Foster Volunteers

This association was formed by private benefactors in 1976 to support the JOCV program through advertising, career support for volunteers after their return to Japan, and the promotion of development education. It also works on expanding the network of support organizations in the regions: 32 local support organizations have hitherto been formed, 30 in the urban and rural prefectures and two in cities.

Front Line

Tokai Branch (Aichi Prefecture)

Former JOCVs from Aichi Prefecture contribute to understanding of other cultures



The Aichi International Plaza is a newly opened center for international exchange in Aichi Prefecture. It is located inside the Sannomaru building of the prefectural government in Nagoya. One of the events held to celebrate its opening was the Aichi International Plaza Festival. This took place on June 21 and 22, 1997 and was organized by the Aichi Prefecture International Exchange Association.

JICA's Tokai branch provided

support for this event and cooperation was obtained from the Aichi Prefecture JOCV Alumni Association. Featured in the festival were an exhibition of photographs introducing the activities of the JOCVs and a corner where visitors could try on folk costumes from various parts of the world.

The folk costume corner included a wide range of colorful traditional clothing brought back to Japan by former JOCVs. Among the items were saris from India and Bangladesh, gran-boo-boo from Africa, hupil and corte from Guatemala, and cloaks from Morocco and Arab countries.

Although the festival took place at the height of the rainy season, it was attended by as many as 350 people over the two days. Visitors especially enjoyed the opportunity to try on the

ethnic costumes.

Mexican and Chilean trainees from JICA's Nagoya International Training Center in the city of Nagoya came along to the event. Together with the Japanese visitors, they tried on Japanese traditional clothes and other folk costumes, posing for the camera with as much grace as if they were fashion models.

A delighted Mexican trainee remarked that she had never envisaged being able to wear so many examples of folk costumes while she was in Japan. She said it was an experience that would remain with her long after she had gone back home.

The folk costume corner gave many people a valuable chance to come into contact with one aspect of the cultures of various countries and served as a stimulus to the understanding of different cultures.

JICA assists the association with these activities, providing materials and sending lecturers for events and study sessions held by youth groups and groups such as the Japan Senior High School Association for International Educational Research.

2. Japan Overseas Cooperation Association

This association was established in 1983 to support and encourage the activities of former volunteers. It makes use of the experience of former volunteers who cooperate with various projects in forms such as personal support for the activities of volunteer groups and recruitment and selection of volunteers.

3. Linkage with groups of former volunteers

Groups of former volunteers have been organized all over Japan according to prefecture of origin, type of work, and country of dispatch. These groups are now cooperating with educational activities to promote international understanding and with international exchange projects implemented by local government. Prefectural groups of former volunteers are assisting JICA with recruitment and with enhancing awareness of JOCV projects.

4. Cooperation with local government

Cooperation from local government is important when promoting cooperation projects. Regular meetings are held with the heads of JOCV departments and others in local government. Officials are also taken to observe the activities of the volunteers. These measures serve to enhance understanding of the volunteer program and to strengthen cooperative relationships with local government.

5. Cooperation with other organizations

Meetings are held with economic and labor organizations and opinions are exchanged with them concerning the job retention scheme and the involvement of companies and organizations in volunteer work. Generous cooperation is being obtained from these organizations.

6. Recommendation of overseas training participants

The JOCV Secretariat provides recommendations for counterparts* (technicians in developing countries to whom volunteers directly transfer technology) of JOCV volunteers in connection with the technical training in Japan of overseas participants implemented by local government bodies. Such training is carried out through either subsidies provided for organizations

promoting overseas technical cooperation (local government subsidies) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or independent sources of funding. In FY1997, 123 overseas participants from 35 countries completed technical training in various specialized fields for about ten months under the auspices of 37 local government bodies.

New volunteer activities

The JOCV Secretariat is also involved in the dispatch of Japan Overseas Development Youth Volunteers, Senior Cooperation Experts on Overseas Japanese Communities, and Senior Overseas Volunteers.

Japan Overseas Development Youth Volunteers and Senior Cooperation Experts on Overseas Japanese Communities are systems involving overseas Japanese communities in Latin America. Ethnic Japanese are making major contributions to nation-building in their respective countries, and Japanese volunteers are being sent to assist with these activities.

The Japan Overseas Development Youth Volunteer program was changed in name and content following the transfer in FY1996 to the JOCV Secretariat of the Overseas Development Youth Program, which got under way in FY1985. As of the end of March 1998, 127 volunteers were active in seven countries working primarily in the educational and cultural sector. A total of 494 volunteers have now been sent since this program was begun.

Projects involving the Senior Overseas Volunteers and the Senior Cooperation Experts on Overseas Japanese Communities were started in FY1990 and were transferred anew to the JOCV Secretariat in FY1996. As of the end of March 1998, 67 Senior Overseas Volunteers were active in 11 countries and 37 Senior Cooperation Experts on Overseas Japanese Communities were active in seven countries. The total numbers of volunteers dispatched since these programs were instituted have reached 168 and 127 respectively.

Program issues and responses

Despite cuts in the ODA budget for FY1998, it proved possible to recruit 1,350 volunteers -- the

same figure as in FY1997 -- to be sent overseas on JOCV projects. This gives some indication of the interest and expectations of young Japanese people, whose sincerity motivates them to want to play their own small role in these activities.

The JOCV Secretariat is tackling this program employing the means described hereunder in order to ascertain correctly the real needs of development countries, to send the most appropriate people for the tasks at hand, and to ensure that young people are able to work in a secure environment.

Dispatch of Ordinary Short-Term Volunteers

Because many people who wish to take part in these activities hope to retain their existing jobs or are concerned about reemployment after returning to Japan, most would-be participants hope to be sent overseas for about one year. This system has been set up to answer this request.

Dispatch of Junior Cooperation Volunteers (senior high school students, etc.)

The aim of this system is to give young people

the opportunity to see for themselves the activities of the JOCVs and to enhance their understanding of international cooperation.

More openings for liberal arts specialists

Since large numbers of applicants are specialists in liberal arts subjects, the fields in which those without specialized knowledge of scientific subjects can participate are being increased.

Bolstering support for volunteers after their return to Japan

After returning to Japan, volunteers are faced with having to decide how to proceed with their careers. Increasing the number of career advisors is just one of the ways in which we are stepping up support for them in this respect. Also, in order to ensure that the experience gained by volunteers gets fed back smoothly into Japanese society, we are providing active support for regional activities through the organization of returned volunteers in forms such as prefectural alumni associations.



International Cooperation Workshop

Planting the seeds of international understanding in junior high school students

There has been an increase in recent years in the number of junior high schools organizing school excursions which incorporate programs involving the study of cooperation and aid activities for developing countries in the context of education aimed at fostering international understanding. JICA organizes international cooperation workshops in the context of a program aimed at children on school excursions. Directed by former JOCVs, the program takes place at the Hiroo Training Center, which is a center for the generation of information on volunteer activities and international cooperation.

The participants in the workshop first play a simple game of "Global Bingo." After increasing their

awareness in this way of the links between their own lives and the world, the children study the general features and roles of Japanese ODA and JOCV activities while watching videos. Former JOCVs then describe their own past activities in the field. The two-hour workshop comes to an end after the schoolchildren have learnt about the activities of the JOCVs and have been brought into contact with the lives and culture of developing countries, which are generally remote from their own lives.

Although ODA and JOCV activities are included in junior high school textbooks in the fields of social studies and English, the children who have participated in this workshop have commented, for

example, that it had made them aware for the first time that Japan had once itself been an aid recipient. They also state that they have gained an awareness of the activities of the JOCVs, while many express the desire to be of assistance in some way to people in developing countries.

The Hiroo Training Center was visited in FY1997 by 330 children from 19 junior high schools. The number of schoolchildren taking part in this workshop is increasing annually. JICA hopes that participation in programs such as this will open the eyes of the Japanese young to the world at large and will stimulate them to think about international cooperation.

8. Grant Aid



Water supply project in Peru.

Outline of the Program

Range of the program

Grant aid constitutes part of official development assistance (ODA) and involves the provision of funds to the governments of developing countries without any obligation to return them. Support is offered with the provision of facilities and equipment by the government of the recipient country in order to assist with economic and social development in that country. The main categories of grant aid are as follows:

(1) General grants:

General project grant aid (including children's

health grants, afforestation grants, and rehabilitation grants*); debt relief grants, non-project grant aid for structural adjustment support, and grant aid for grassroots projects*;

(2) Fishery grants;

(3) Cultural grants;

(4) Emergency grants (disaster relief, assistance with democratization, assistance with reconstruction and development);

(5) Food aid* (KR);

(6) Aid for increased food production* (2KR).

Of these various types of grant, JICA is responsible for (1) general project grants (including children's health grants, afforestation grants, and rehabilitation grants), (2) fishery

grants, (5) food aid, and (6) aid for increased food production.

The work performed by JICA includes prior studies concerned primarily with checking on the content of requests for grant aid, the scale of the project, and the approximate costs; expediting the execution of grant aid projects which get off the ground with the signing and exchange of an intergovernmental agreement (E/N); and follow-up activities aimed at maintaining and enhancing the effects of a project.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs directly provides the funds for grant aid cooperation projects. However, JICA plays an extremely important role in the provision of grant aid in that the agency is responsible for the selection of consultants and for instructing and supervising suppliers.

Objects of the program

Countries eligible for receiving grant aid are selected from among those which qualify for interest-free financing from the International Development Association* (IDA). The precondition is that these countries should be unable to implement projects with their own funds and borrowing capacity. Projects entailing commercial profit, those connected with high technology, and those which run the risk of being channeled to military ends are ineligible.

The grant aid program is closely connected with technical cooperation implemented by Japan and other donors* (countries and agencies providing aid), and priority is given particularly to BHN*-related projects which answer the most basic needs of human life.

Grant aid is made available mainly for education, research and occupational training, health and medical care, daily water supply (service water and groundwater development), agriculture, public infrastructure* such as roads, bridges and airports, and environmental projects.

The question of which fields deserve priority in recipient countries is determined in accordance with policies announced by the Japanese government at economic summits and conferences to support developing countries initiated by international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank. When

selecting projects, emphasis is placed upon whether the government of the recipient country has sufficient maintenance and administrative capacity, including budgetary and human resources.

Procedure of JICA grant aid activities

A system was begun in August 1994 whereby grant aid projects for which requests are submitted by developing countries are studied by a project study group within JICA as to their necessity, urgency, and technical problems. The results of these studies are then handed on to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A total of 411 proposals were examined by JICA in FY1997. The study group pays close attention to maintenance and administrative structures in the developing countries. They then make recommendations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, giving priority to projects likely to facilitate linkage with experts, JOCVs, and project-type technical cooperation.

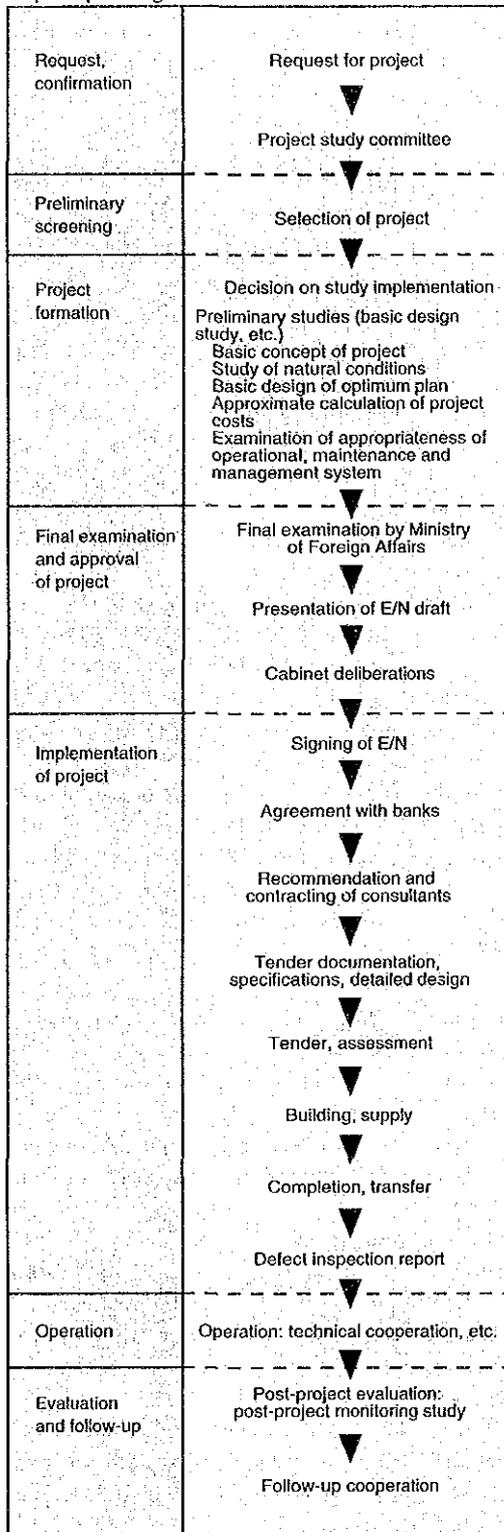
Projects recommended by JICA are then examined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If a recommended project is considered to be of high quality, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues instructions, whereupon JICA embarks upon a basic design study* involving basic design and calculation of the approximate costs of the project.

Most such studies are performed by contracted consultants, but in cases where a high-quality project is deemed to require further on-site confirmation as regards the content of the request, a preliminary study may be carried out in advance of the basic design study. Altogether 108 basic design studies were performed in FY1997.

Upon completion of preliminary studies, projects are presented to the cabinet after practical consultations with the Ministry of Finance. A final decision on a grant aid project is taken once the Ministry of Finance has given its approval.

Projects brought before the cabinet in FY1997 included 148 general project grant aid projects, 13 fishery grant projects, and 56 increased food production projects.

■ Fig. 3-7: The grant aid project cycle and the principal stages



Grant aid projects on which a final decision has been taken get under way with the signing of an exchange note (E/N) between the governments of Japan and the recipient country. At the same time, JICA receives instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to go ahead with the project.

After JICA has expedited and completed a grant aid project and the project has been handed over to the recipient country, unforeseen circumstances may arise which result in the functions of completed facilities and supplied equipment being lost unless additional cooperation is forthcoming. Follow-up cooperation with grant aid projects is provided in cases where the government of a developing country is unable adequately to carry out maintenance and management once the project has been completed.

Follow-up cooperation involves the dispatch of experts and study teams to carry out repairs and construction work. On occasions, cooperation aimed at restoring essential functions is provided through the supply of updated equipment or spare parts. There are cases where such support activities prove to be more effective than cooperating on new projects.

Project topics

Strengthening the system of implementation

The most important matter when implementing high-quality grant aid is to strengthen the system of implementation. Amid the clamor for reform of Japanese administrative institutions, we at JICA are striving to raise the quality of our operations and to introduce greater efficiency into our implementation system.

For instance, by making more effective use of our internal and external organization and personnel, we are striving to identify and formulate high-quality projects with a view to bolstering linkage with technical cooperation. Specifically, this involves using the functions and personnel of international agencies and other donors as well as of JICA's overseas offices, development specialists, project formulation specialists, and long-term study teams.

Design and calculation

Design and calculation are issues of keen interest to those involved in the implementation of projects.

Since they make use of the precious national budget, grant aid projects are realized with approximate project costs calculated through basic design surveys. In order for a project to conform to the requirements of a developing country, appropriate design and calculation are essential. JICA has been consistently involved in such detailed studies.

This involves obtaining cooperation from external experts in performing detailed basic design studies and holding rigorous meetings at the execution stage with all those concerned.

Guidelines of various types have been drawn up for consultants to ensure that they share the same basic approach to execution of a project.

Information and publicity

One issue applying to ODA as a whole is that of information and publicity aimed at the general public. Considering the large sums of money being spent on grant aid and its likely effects, an active response to this issue is essential.

In parallel with project management, JICA is also involved in the production of aid maps, project summary charts, and videos and pamphlets introducing projects so as to ensure that operations are fully disclosed to the general public.

c l o s e -


New Trends in Grant Aid Projects

Expansion of cooperation

FY1998 saw the start of three new categories of grant aid project, one referred to as "soft component" grant aid and the others being afforestation grant aid and rehabilitation grant aid.

"Soft component" grant aid allows for cooperation involving, for example, guidance by consultants on the operation, maintenance and administration of facilities and equipment to be included within the main project costs.

Afforestation grant aid allows for afforestation work which has not

hitherto been covered by grant aid projects to be provided for by general project grant aid. In addition to the construction of afforestation facilities and the provision of equipment as in the past, cooperation possibilities now include work connected with planting and cultivation.

Efforts to strengthen linkage with loan aid projects have resulted in the addition of rehabilitation grant aid as a new form of cooperation. Projects completed with loan aid may sometimes require rehabilitation, but loan aid in such

cases may prove to be an inappropriate method of response from the angles of urgency, profitability and scale. This new system makes it possible to respond to rehabilitation needs with general project grant aid.

Addition of these new forms of cooperation, along with children's health grant aid which was begun in FY1997, is part of an ongoing attempt to raise the quality of grant aid so as to ensure that it can respond on the widest possible scale to the needs of developing countries.

9. Development Cooperation



A horticultural development test project in the Philippines.

Outline of the Program

The development cooperation program is intended to contribute to autonomous economic development in developing countries by providing financial and technical support on a governmental basis for development projects implemented by Japanese private companies in these countries.

Among the various types of development project implemented by Japanese private companies in developing countries, this cooperation program is concerned primarily with projects which contribute to social development and the development of agriculture, forestry, mining and industry. Having assessed the public

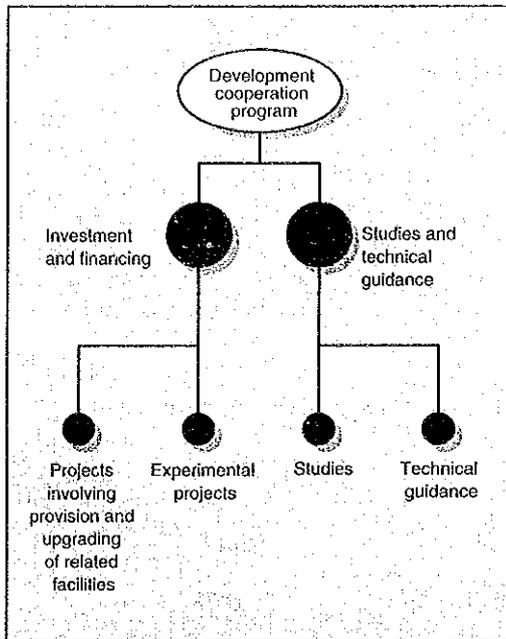
benefits, technical and economic risks, profitability, and experimental features of a project, the funds required for implementation are made available under long-term, low-interest conditions. Technical guidance is provided and studies are performed to ensure smooth implementation of the project. Development cooperation projects are classified as shown in Figure 3-8.

Types of project

Investment and financing

Financing is provided over the long term and at low rates of interest to:

■ Fig. 3-8: Development cooperation program



- (1) Japanese corporations implementing development projects in developing countries, and
- (2) Japanese corporations which finance local corporations implementing development projects.

JICA holds symposiums both in Japan and overseas to stimulate greater awareness of investment and financing operations and to ascertain corporate requirements. Projects eligible for financing and investment are described below.

Projects involving the provision and upgrading of related facilities

When providing or upgrading facilities in development projects for which loans, guarantees of obligation, or financing have been provided by the Export-Import Bank of Japan, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), the Japan National Oil Corporation, the Metal Mining Agency of Japan, the Central Bank for Agriculture and Forestry, the Shoko Chukin Bank, and JICA, it may sometimes be difficult to obtain loans from the Export-Import Bank of Japan or the OECF. Projects involving the provision and upgrading of related facilities are intended to deal with such situations. Loans are provided for projects considered to be useful for developing adjacent areas and for improving the

living standards of local people. Funds are made available specifically for the following projects:

(1) Public facilities which help to improve the lives and well-being of local people such as schools, hospitals, community halls, churches, temples, public administrative offices, post offices, and fire stations.

(2) Facilities needed for projects which are likely to benefit local communities such as roads, port facilities, water supply and sewerage, assembly halls, vocational training centers, and electrical installations.

(3) Afforestation projects oriented toward environmental conservation and aimed at improving the local environment.

Experimental projects

An experimental project is a type of development project which cannot be realized unless combined with technical improvements and development. Financing and investment for experimental projects are directed toward projects which lie outside the scope of financing from the Japan Import and Export Bank or the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

Experimental projects include cultivation of crops, livestock breeding, afforestation, development of unused timber resources, excavation, screening and refining of non-ferrous minerals such as limestone, rock phosphate and rock salt, and construction of low-cost housing. Thirteen loans were made in FY1997 for experimental projects, the total amount of financing being approximately 1.15 billion yen.

Studies and technical guidance

Under JICA's investment and financing system, various types of technical support are provided at the request of companies to ensure that development projects proceed smoothly and entail benefits for the people of developing countries. Technical support is one of the main features of JICA's investment and financing system.

Technical support assumes three forms, namely studies (especially field studies) and the collection of data prior to financing and, after the loan has been provided, the dispatch of experts and the intake of overseas participants in technical training.

Studies

1. Basic development studies

JICA stands in for companies in ascertaining local conditions, gathering data, examining the feasibility of projects, and formulating the basic concepts and the implementation plan for projects free of charge. It then transmits its findings to the implementing companies.

2. Field studies

Surveyors are dispatched for relatively long periods to consider the feasibility of agricultural and forestry projects which involve regional development and which, owing to a deficiency of related data, will require a long time before they can be implemented in earnest. The data gathered in the course of these studies is then submitted to interested companies.

3. Other studies

Other studies are as follows:

(1) Examination of investment and financing

Studies are performed with a view to ascertaining how a project is progressing and how to deal with problems that may arise after it has been completed.

(2) Evaluation of impact on regional development

Once a certain duration has elapsed after a project has begun, the extent to which the project is contributing to the development of the adjacent region is evaluated.

(3) Promotion of investment and financing in connection with environmental conservation

This type of study is concerned with the question of how companies are dealing with problems of environmental conservation arising in the course of development. Studies aim to identify and formulate projects worthy of receiving environment-related investment and financing. They involve meetings held overseas to explain investment and financing systems and individual consultations on loans.

Dispatch of experts

In cases where a company is unable on its own initiative to respond adequately to technical problems arising in the project implementation process, at the request of this company JICA dispatches experts well versed in the field

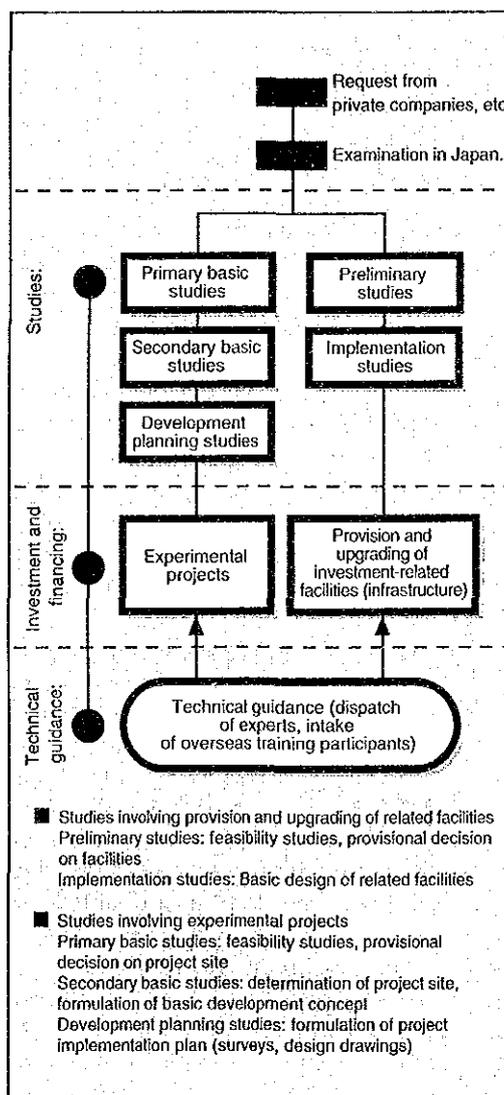
concerned to provide appropriate technical guidance.

Training

In order to raise the technical levels of local staff, JICA may, when so requested by a company, bring members of the local staff over to Japan for technical training.

In FY1997, 28 study teams and 37 experts (continuing and new) were dispatched overseas and 34 people were brought to Japan for training.

■ Fig. 3-9: Flow of development cooperation projects



10. Disaster Relief



A team of experts sent to cope with the consequences of the forest fires which ravaged Indonesia in October 1997.

Outline of the Program

Content and results

The purpose of the disaster relief program is to provide emergency relief when a major disaster occurs overseas, especially in developing countries. On the basis of requests received from the government of the country affected or of an international agency, emergency relief teams known as Japan Disaster Relief Teams (JDR) are sent to the stricken area and materials and equipment are provided.

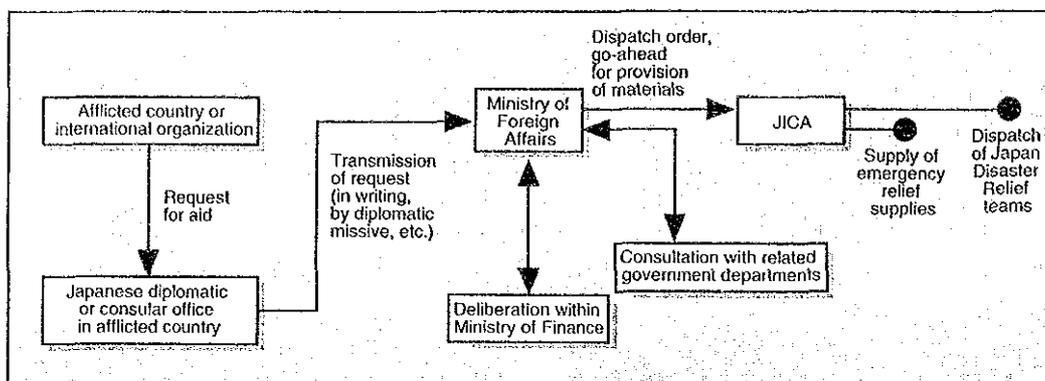
Such emergency aid activities date back to the late 1970s, when medical teams were dispatched to assist in the relief of Cambodian refugees.

These activities initially involved the dispatch of experts in the fields of medicine and emergency reconstruction. It was in September 1987, with the promulgation and enactment of the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law (also known as the JDR Law), which provided for practical relief, that provision of disaster relief was properly systematized.

This law was partially amended in June 1992, making it possible for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, after consultations with the Director General of the Defense Agency, to send teams from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces in the following two cases:

- (1) When a disaster on a large scale occurs and

■ Fig. 3-10: Mechanism for deciding on emergency disaster relief (excluding capital assistance)



extensive aid is required;

(2) When there is a need for self-reliant activities in the disaster area.

These changes in the law have resulted in the formation of a more comprehensive implementation system as regards the dispatch of JDR teams.

Prior to enactment of this law in 1987, 19 teams were dispatched and materials were provided on 14 occasions. However, since the law came into effect, 39 teams have been dispatched and materials have been provided on 164 occasions. In FY1997, JDR teams were sent to Indonesia to deal with the aftermath of forest fires, to Malaysia in response to air pollution, and to Singapore to deal with an oil spill. Materials of various kinds were provided on 19 occasions, for instance to deal with flooding in Tanzania.

Dispatch of JDR teams

JDR teams are categorized as rescue teams, medical teams, or expert teams. After a request has been received from the government of the afflicted country or from an international agency, either a single-category or a multiple-category team is dispatched depending on the type and magnitude of the disaster.

Rescue teams

The main tasks of a rescue team are to search for and rescue victims of a disaster, provide first aid, and move the victims to safety. A team should be able to leave Japan within 24 hours of receipt of an aid request and a decision being made to respond positively to it.

Since aid activities require knowledge and experience as well as cooperation and collaboration among the team members, each rescue team consists of representatives of related government agencies -- the National Police Agency, the Maritime Safety Agency, and the Fire Defense Agency -- along with JICA operational coordinators.

Medical teams

Medical teams consist of doctors, nurses, and medical coordinators who have previously expressed interest in taking part in JDR teams and are registered with the JDR Secretariat, together with JICA operational coordinators. Registration occurs in accordance with a previously held JDR recruitment campaign.

The main tasks of a medical team are to provide medical treatment, in either a central or a supportive role, for the victims of disasters. Once a request has been received and the decision to go ahead with the provision of aid has been made, a team is expected to be able to leave Japan within 48 hours. As well as treating the injured, medical teams may be required to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

As of the end of March, 1998, there were 192 doctors, 242 nurses, and 120 medical coordinators -- a total of 554 persons -- registered under this scheme.

Expert teams

The tasks of expert teams are to take stopgap measures in the wake of disasters and to provide advice on how best to recover from disasters. Teams are made up of experts recommended by

related government ministries and agencies according to the type of disaster.

Related activities

In addition to dispatch of the teams mentioned above, the disaster relief program involves the activities described below.

Provision, procurement and storage of materials

Aid materials such as blankets, tents, water purifiers, and simple water containers are provided for relief purposes and to assist in the process of recovery.

To ensure that such supplies can be provided promptly and in sufficient quantities, they need to be procured in advance and kept in constant readiness for use. Warehouses with stocks of supplies are located at five places worldwide: Narita in Japan's Chiba Prefecture, Singapore, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In emergencies, medical supplies not suited to permanent storage are obtained from UNIPAC, UNICEF's supplies procurement division in Copenhagen.

Study and training

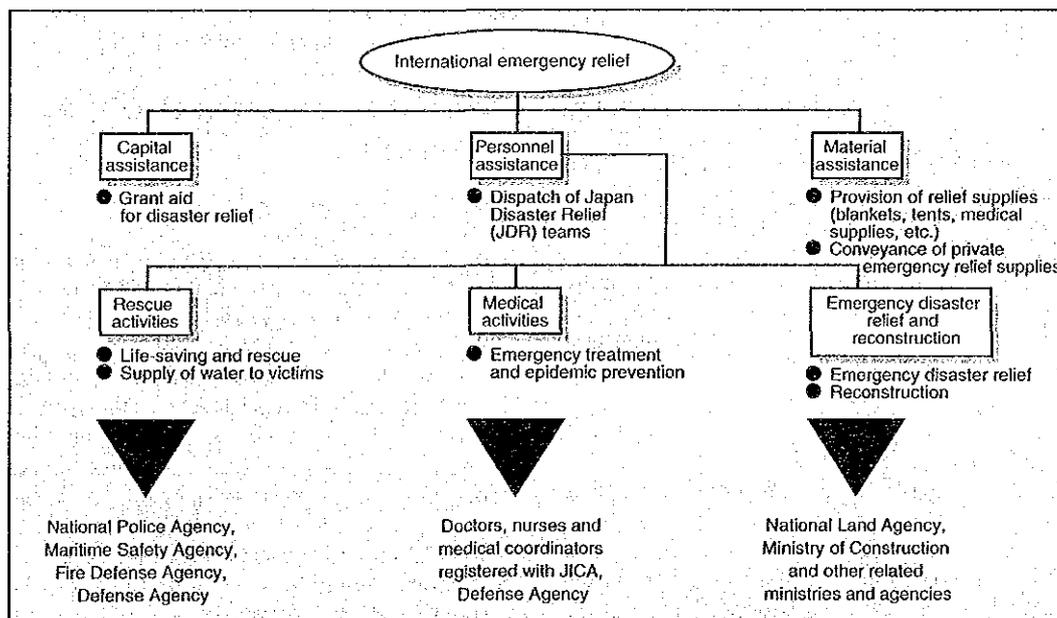
Understanding of a country's society and customs and knowledge of its transport and communications systems are vital when carrying out aid activities overseas. Outstanding teamwork plays a particularly essential role in enhancing the effectiveness of emergency aid activities. JICA is thus providing training to take account of all kinds of disaster eventualities.

Conveyance of emergency aid materials provided by the private sector

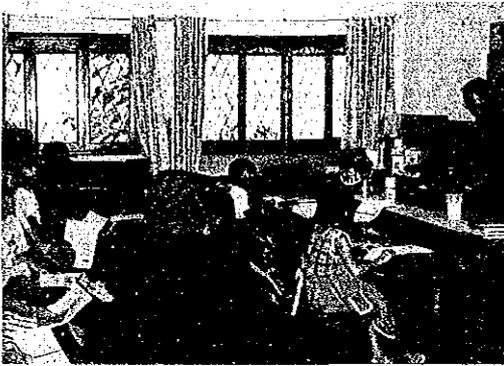
Large-scale disasters in which relief supplies are still required even after the Japanese government has provided supplies at the request of the afflicted country may sometimes occur. As part of its emergency relief work, JICA at its own cost collects supplies from local government bodies, private organizations and individuals and conveys them to the disaster area.

After a request for additional relief supplies has been received, JICA appeals to the Japanese public for cooperation through the mass media. JICA then sends all the supplies thus collected by air to the Japanese embassy in the afflicted country. These supplies are then handed over in principle to the country's government.

■ Fig. 3-11: Japan's International Emergency Relief System



11. Support for Japanese Emigrants and People of Japanese Descent



A Japanese language school in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Background to the program

2.5 million Japanese emigrants and people of Japanese descent living outside Japan

Since the end of World War II, about 73,000 Japanese people have emigrated to other countries with help from JICA and other organizations, and there are now thought to be about 2.5 million people of Japanese descent living overseas.

Japanese emigrants and their descendants are active in many walks of life all over the world. During the postwar years, many Japanese emigrated to Brazil and Paraguay, where they are now contributing significantly to the industrial and economic development of these countries, particularly in the field of agriculture.

The activities of Japanese emigrants make a significant contribution to the development of their respective countries which may in itself be regarded as a form of international cooperation. This contribution is of particular significance in that it deepens understanding of Japan and establishes close relations between Japan and the

countries where emigrants have settled.

Changes in emigration patterns

Patterns of emigration have changed considerably over the past half century with a decline in the overall numbers of new emigrants, diversification of occupation away from agriculture to trade, industry and the service sector, and a tendency to emigrate to advanced countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia in preference to Latin America.

A generational transformation is now overtaking overseas Japanese communities, which have now reached a crossroads in their development. Japanese communities in Latin America in particular have reached a high level of maturity and are now contributing significantly to the promotion of friendly and cooperative relations between their countries and Japan.

Trends and content of the program

Reviewing projects

In response to these changes in emigration patterns, JICA has been reviewing the content of the emigration program since FY1994 as follows:

- (1) Stepwise reorganization of training and departure services to new emigrants from FY1994;
- (2) While striving to ensure the stability of the lives of those who emigrated with support from JICA in the past, emphasis on international cooperation with a view to stepping up support and cooperation for Japanese overseas communities.

Of the earlier projects involving overseas Japanese communities forming part of the emigration program, it was decided to implement

those strongly oriented toward technical cooperation (e.g. provision of training in Japan and dispatch of Japanese experts and volunteers) in the context of technical cooperation projects from FY1996 onward, as follows:

(1) Training in Japan for members of overseas Japanese communities (formerly "intake of emigrant training participants");

(2) Dispatch of experts on overseas Japanese communities (formerly "dispatch of emigration experts");

(3) Dispatch of senior volunteers to overseas Japanese communities (formerly known as "senior emigration experts");

(4) Dispatch of Japan overseas development youth volunteers (formerly known as "overseas development youth dispatch").

Content of the emigration program

JICA performs the following activities in connection with emigration projects:

Publicity

In order to deepen understanding among the Japanese public of overseas emigrants and Japanese overseas communities, the activities of emigrants and people of Japanese descent are presented through three main outlets, namely:

(1) Publication of a bimonthly magazine entitled *Kaigai iju* (Overseas Emigration);

(2) Invitation to Japan of prominent individuals of Japanese descent;

(3) Provision of subsidies to assist with the organization of conferences for people of Japanese descent living outside Japan.

Training of the children of emigrants

1. Training for students of Japanese language schools

Gifted pupils of Japanese language schools are invited to Japan to gain first-hand experience of Japanese culture and society. While in Japan they can improve their language abilities by attending junior high schools and staying as guests in ordinary homes. This training is provided for one month every year and has been in effect since FY1987. Forty-one pupils visited Japan to receive this training in FY1997.

2. Technical training for people of Japanese descent working in Japan before returning to their home countries

Training is provided to people of Japanese descent who have been working in Japan and who possess a certain level of academic ability. They are given technical training before returning home to help them contribute to the development of their countries. Training of this type was begun in 1993. A productivity enhancement course and a personal computer course attended by 15 students were held in FY1997.

3. Training for young people and women of Japanese descent

In order to give overseas Japanese currently residing in Japan the chance to gain a better understanding of Japanese culture, 30-day courses in Japanese culture and language are provided with the cooperation of the International Women's Training Center.

4. Central training for overseas Japanese students

Grants are provided for study courses organized twice a year by the Overseas Japanese Association. These courses are aimed primarily at overseas Japanese studying in Japan on grants from Japanese local government authorities.

Support for emigrants

Various projects were implemented in FY1997 to support emigrants and improve their living conditions.

1. Operation of test centers and dissemination of agronomy

JICA is involved in experimental and research activities through its running of a comprehensive horticultural experiment station in Argentina and comprehensive agricultural experiment stations in Bolivia and Paraguay. JICA also provides technical guidance and advice on agronomic matters to farmers of Japanese descent and other farmers in the vicinity.

Other activities aimed at improving agronomic methods employed by emigrants include the dispatch of agricultural experts from Brazil, training in agricultural methods as practiced in advanced countries, encouragement of agricultural study groups, and practical training for the staff of agricultural cooperatives.

2. Medical care and hygiene

JICA has provided grants for the running of five clinics in Paraguay and Bolivia. Medical aid has been channeled to emigrants in Paraguay, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic on the basis of agreements with local physicians. Scholarships have been awarded to students of medicine and nursing in these countries.

3. Education and culture

JICA is providing grants in forms such as reward payments to teachers with a view to supporting education in local languages. Support with Japanese language education is being provided through third country training* of local Japanese language teachers, reward payments to teachers, upgrading of educational materials, and the construction of Japanese language model schools in Brazil.

4. Support for improvements in social welfare and everyday infrastructure

Grants were provided in Brazil for the construction of the Wajun Home, a residential institution for elderly people in the state of Parana, and for riparian works in the Japanese colony at Guatapala. Grants were also provided for the purchase of road repair vehicles and machinery in Japanese settlements in Paraguay and Bolivia.

Lotting-out of settlements

JICA is involved in the dividing up of housing lots in Japanese settlements. In FY1997, 11 zones in the Iguacu colony in Paraguay and two zones in the Magdalena colony in Argentina were prepared for sale in the form of individual housing lots.

Business loans

JICA offers loans to businesses run by emigrants as well as to business groups contributing to the permanence and stability of Japanese immigrant communities. In FY1997, loans totaling 1.013 billion yen were provided to emigrants in Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic.

Studies on emigration

Various studies are performed every year in order to gather basic data likely to prove useful in supporting and giving guidance to Japanese emigrants and people of Japanese descent and in stimulating a better understanding of Japanese overseas communities. Studies performed in FY1997 included economic studies on farms in five Latin American countries, fact-finding surveys of projects to support overseas Japanese implemented by NGOs* and local governments, and revisions in general descriptions of overseas settlements.

Since FY1993, the Overseas Japanese Association has been cooperating with consultations on everyday matters for the benefit of overseas Japanese working in Japan.

c l o s e - 

Overseas Japanese Third-country Experts

Linkage between emigration projects and technical cooperation projects

There are at present around 1.5 million Japanese emigrants and people of Japanese descent living in Latin America and working in many different fields. Many of them possess advanced knowledge and technical skills, are thoroughly conversant with local customs, culture and society, and are able to speak both the local language and Japanese.

Human resources development among overseas Japanese in the form of training, etc., has been one of the focal points of emigration projects, but a topic which has to be faced is that of how to make use of such highly proficient personnel in the context of technical cooperation. On the other hand, how to acquire highly able personnel is a constant problem when providing aid to Latin America. Despite the large number of requests

for cooperation, there are relatively few Japanese experts with sufficient ability in the local languages. Differences of language and culture may often have the effect of impeding technical cooperation in the field.

The Overseas Japanese Third-Country Expert System was begun in FY1997 to confront this problem. This new system involves the use of highly able overseas Japanese engineers to cooperate on technical matters with Japanese experts in order to enhance the efficiency of technology transfer* and to plan for the development of appropriate skills.

Overseas Japanese third-country experts are sent mainly from Brazil, Mexico and Argentina to take part in projects (project-type technical cooperation, individual expert dispatch, third-country training,

research cooperation*, etc.) being implemented in Latin America. The system is likely to make an important contribution to furthering South-South cooperation*. In FY1997, four Brazilian experts of Japanese descent were sent to take part in the following projects:

(1) The rural development project in the region south of Pilar, Paraguay: Chemical analysis of soil.

(2) The rural development project in the region south of Pilar, Paraguay: Production and use of organic soil fertilizers.

(3) The technology development project on irrigation and drainage in Honduras: Agricultural civil engineering.

(4) Project for health improvement in Wames province, Santa Cruz, Bolivia: Response to Chagas' disease.