

Youth Invitation Program



Taking on the challenge of Japanese flower arranging at a host's home.

Aims and Significance

The Youth Invitation Program forms a part of JICA's support for personnel training. Young people who will determine the future course of developing countries are invited to Japan for one month to study their areas of expertise. They take part in residential seminars with young Japanese people with the same specialties, stay in local Japanese homes, and take part in all kinds of local activities which contribute to mutual understanding and trust as well as to the building of solid friendships.

The program started in 1984 when the first young people from ASEAN visited Japan. There has since been a gradual increase in the number of countries involved and in the number of young people coming to Japan. The countries now include those of Southwest Asia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, the Pacific region, Africa, Latin America, and Central Asia. Around 1,600 young people from more than 100 countries now visit Japan on this program every year. More than 18,000 have come to Japan on the program since it was instituted.

Front Line

Presenting Vietnamese Music to the General Public

Kanagawa

Children and adults use music for international exchange

- ◆ A concert of Vietnamese traditional music presented shortly before the end of the program

Ms. Nguyen performed wistful melodies containing a strong vibrato at the Sobudai Community Center in Zama City, Kanagawa Prefecture. Ms. Nguyen, a professor at Hanoi College of Music specializing in Vietnamese traditional music, was visiting Japan as a member of a group of Vietnamese teachers on JICA's Youth Invitation Program. On the Sunday before the one-month program came to an end, Ms. Nguyen presented a concert of Vietnamese traditional music with assistance from the Zama City International Exchange Association. Around 200 people attended the concert, far more than could be accommodated in the 150 seats which had been provided for the occasion.

- ◆ A beautiful bridge of sound spanning the two nations

The members of the audience listened intently to the commentary given on Vietnamese music, customs and culture. As well as appreciating the music, they became more aware of Vietnam and realized its closeness to Japan.

Various comments were heard from the audience when the concert was over. One person said, "I came to find out what kind of country Vietnam is. The music sounds very much like that of Okinawa." Another person said, "I felt it was music that would appeal very much to Japanese people. I'd love to invite her to play at a meeting of our international exchange group."

The concert went well over the hour and a half allotted for it. As an encore Ms. Nguyen performed a Vietnamese folk song and sang the Japanese song "Kitaguni no haru" in fluent Japanese. She said how happy she was to have



Understanding between Japan and Vietnam enhanced through music

been able to contribute to exchange through the medium of music. She was clearly successful in building a beautiful bridge of sound between the two nations of Vietnam and Japan.

(JICA Headquarters, Tokyo)



Local people play a positive role in the Youth Invitation Program in Toyokawa City, Aichi Prefecture.

Features of the Program

The Youth Invitation Program is a JICA activity implemented with the participation and cooperation of a wide sector of the community that also involves training not only in the major cities of Tokyo and Osaka but also in the provinces. Through exchange with Japanese volunteers involving practical study of the Japanese language, exchange of opinions with young Japanese at residential seminars, and regional programs implemented in almost all Japanese

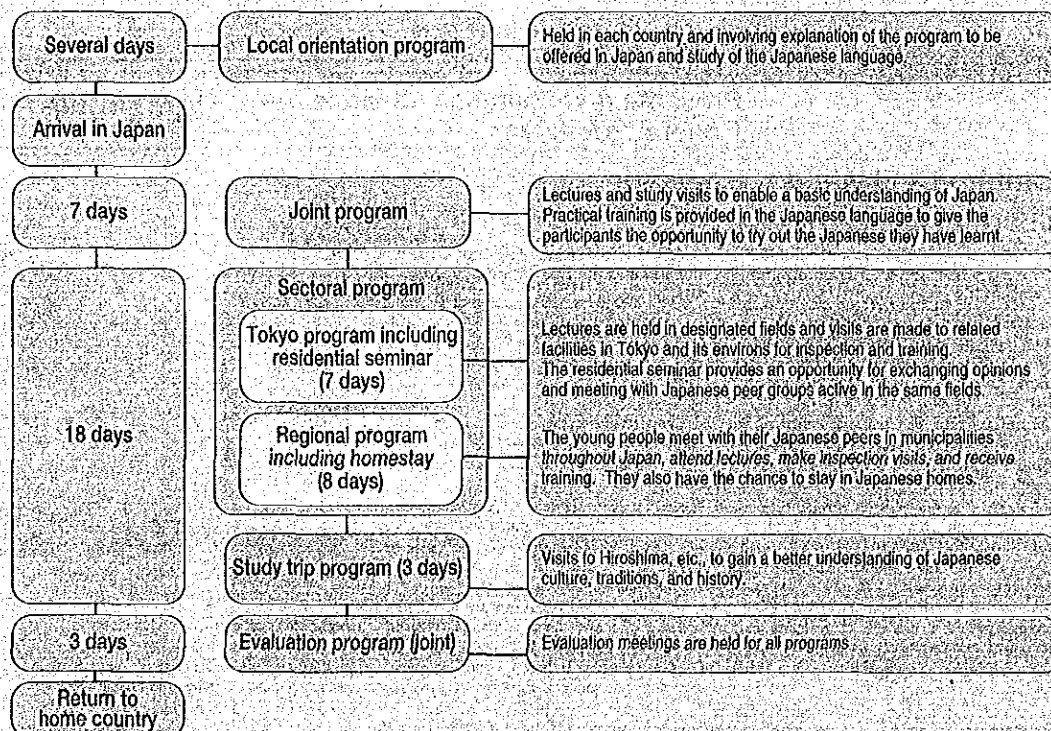
prefectures, the participants are able to take part in traditional local events and civic activities and to deepen their understanding of Japan. The program therefore provides not only the young people from overseas but also young Japanese participants with the opportunity to experience international cooperation and exchange, to reach a better understanding of cultures differing from their own, and to engage in local community development.

Importance is increasingly being placed upon links with the regions in the context of international cooperation and exchange. The JOCV program is proving increasingly effective in achieving such links.

Method of Invitation

The experience of spending a month in Japan is intended to enable participants to further their understanding of their particular areas of specialization and to make use of their newly acquired knowledge in the process of national development once they have returned home. The young people are invited on the basis of prior classification into groups in line with their field of specialty, such as education, agriculture

Fig. 3-8 Structure of the Youth Invitation Program



and social development. These may be either single-nationality groups organized according to specialty, or they may be mixed-nationality groups in the same sector. Standard programs last 28 days and are structured in terms of content as shown in Fig. 3-8. Participants are aged between 18 to 35 years and should not have visited Japan before.

Extending the Scope of Exchange Activities

Alumni associations consisting of former participants in this program have been established in six ASEAN countries, and a liaison committee grouping together the alumni associations also meets to engage in special social welfare activities and to promote exchange with Japan. In other countries too, young people are maintaining their relations with Japan after returning home and are active in a wide variety of fields.

Young Japanese people, host families and members of related organizations who established personal relationships with the visitors during their stay in Japan are sent to the participants' countries as members of aftercare teams to renew their friendships.

JICA is providing active support for these activities to ensure that the results of the Youth Invitation



Exchange continues through alumni associations and visits made by Japanese aftercare teams following the participants' return home

Program create a link to the future and encourage closer exchange between Japan and the various countries involved.

There has also been a conspicuous increase in examples of organizations and municipalities furthering their own exchange activities with the participants' countries, taking advantage of opportunities presented by this program. All kinds of exchange activities are emerging: international exchange associations in various parts of Japan visit the young people in their home countries; "sister school" relations are established with the schools visited by the participants in the project; and, in the case of the Papua New Guinea earthquake, people who played host to the visitors collected donations to send to the afflicted area (see Front Line). The Youth Invitation Program has the potential to develop into international cooperation and exchange in which ordinary citizens play the central role.

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Chapter 2

Project Implementation / Youth Invitation Program

Front Line

Invitation of a Teachers' Group from Papua New Guinea

Hokkaido

The Youth Invitation Program bears abundant fruit

On July 17, 1998, the northwestern area of Papua New Guinea was struck by a *tsunami* that claimed many victims. However, there may be few people who recall having seen a short article in a local newspaper describing the donation made by the Obihiro Junior Chamber through JICA to benefit the victims of this disaster. Despite the small size of the article, this donation was an important consequence of the Youth Invitation Program and provided further evidence of how effective this program has become.

◆ The Obihiro Junior Chamber provides a rapid response

The Obihiro Junior Chamber played host to a group of 20 young teachers from Papua New Guinea who visited their city in FY1997. As soon as they heard of the disaster they wasted no time in responding, beginning a donation campaign five days after the event. It was one week later that they approached JICA to ask if we could deliver their donation. A donation of

¥516,000 collected from members of the Obihiro Junior Chamber arrived at JICA's Center in Obihiro on August 4. JICA International Centers are, of course, intended to be outlets for international cooperation in the regions. To remain true to our reputation, we immediately started phoning and began sending a flurry of faxes and e-mails to find out how we could ensure that the goodwill shown by the Obihiro Junior Chamber was transmitted as soon as possible. We then rushed off to a local bank in the city.

◆ The donation arrives safely

We had hoped to send the funds to a branch of the Bank of Hawaii in Papua New Guinea; however, the bank informed us that because they had no experience in completing such a transaction, they would have to reply at a later date after consulting their head office. Two days later, just as we were on the verge of taking our custom to a large Tokyo city bank, the bank we had originally visited told us that we would be able to remit the money.



A local paper reports on Japanese donations.

We were eventually able to hand over a check on August 24 to a teacher from the Papua New Guinea province of Sandaun (West Sepik) who was visiting Obihiro as part of the FY1998 Youth Invitation Program.

We subsequently received generous letters of thanks from the national government of Papua New Guinea and the provincial government of West Sepik.

(JICA Hokkaido International Center, Obihiro)

Recruitment of Technical Cooperation Experts



Experts are sent to work in many areas (Malawi).

Outline of the Program

Aims and significance

This program contributes to human resources development and organizational and institutional development through the recruitment of experts on behalf of developing countries. Experts transfer or propose technology in line with the conditions applying in the country in question, to administrators and technicians; especially those involved in economic and social development. Together with the Technical Training of Overseas Participants program, this program constitutes the core of cooperation involving human resources development in developing countries.

Features of the program

In contrast to the technical training program, which generally takes place within Japan, a major feature of the expert recruitment program is that it involves cooperation activities actually conducted in developing countries. The program allows for cooperation to be finely tailored to the needs of the country in question.

Furthermore, experts are dispatched over an extremely wide range of areas and sectors; their activities include the direct transfer of technology through the provision of instruction at educational training and research institutes, the presentation of proposals in connection with the creation of institutions and organizations as well as the provision of policy advice. Such activities are aimed at many international organizations in more than 100 countries in almost all the developing regions of the world.

Close Up

Private-Proposal Intellectual Support Seminars

Soliciting ideas for seminars from the private sector, presenting proposals to the government of the recipient country, and implementing projects

In recent years, the needs of developing countries for intellectual support* have been increasing, particularly to provide help with the transfer to a market economy and general economic liberalization. In such fields, effective use can be made not only of the expertise of the Japanese government but also of the knowledge possessed by private think-tanks.

JICA began in FY1998 with a series of seminars in which Japan presented proposals to recipient countries on how cooperation could be provided, rather than merely waiting for a request to be made as had been the case previously. As a result, six projects of this type have so far been selected for implementation in countries such as Vietnam and Myanmar.

The procedure involves Japan studying the needs of developing countries, itemizing several fields and countries where we wish to hold seminars on a priority basis, and soliciting ideas for seminars from think-tanks and consultants registered with JICA. An organization selects a country from among those suggested by JICA and proposes seminar topics and orchestration. JICA then selects a proposal that is then presented to the government of the recipient country for approval. The organization that submitted the approved proposal then organizes the seminar.

Seminars are held in the targeted recipient countries and last about one week. Specialists are sent from Japan and

elsewhere; seminars and workshops are usually held with 30 local participants. In accordance with the results of the seminar, participants and lecturers may make inspection visits and exchange opinions with people in neighboring countries.

In private-proposal intellectual support seminars, we are trying to move away from the conventional approach in which government agencies play the guiding role toward an approach in which the ideas of Japan's private sector are fully incorporated. Training held in adjacent countries is also contributing to the dissemination of appropriate technology and to South-South cooperation* between the country where a seminar is being held and its neighbors.

A further feature of the program is that a dynamic and flexible response can be made to new aid requirements and new recipient countries that emerge as a consequence of changes in the international community.

In addition, aid with a clearly visible profile can be provided efficiently through the activities of Japanese people working as advisors at the heart of government in the recipient country.

Dispatch of experts in various areas to a wide variety of countries and international agencies gives 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 experience is very useful in that it enhances Japan's own international awareness and internationalization.

groups of experts with acceptance of training participants and equipment supply (dispatch of individual specialist teams, research cooperation*, core support for important policies).

(3) Dispatch of personnel from developing countries as experts to other developing countries with the aim of transferring technology which meets the needs of individual developing regions and for the purpose of South-South cooperation (third-country expert dispatch).

These types of cooperation involving response to specific requests have been supplemented recently by the "offer" type of expert dispatch whereby the recipient is offered cooperation that the Japanese side regards as being necessary. This latter type is now gradually increasing.

Project details

JICA is engaged in various forms of expert dispatch in order to respond as sensitively as possible to the needs of developing countries and to promote effective implementation of projects. Projects can be categorized into the following three types:

- (1) Recruitment of experts in accordance with individual requests from developing countries.
- (2) Three-year mini-projects combining dispatch of

Project Trends

Promotion of public-participatory projects

Previously the most common procedure adopted in expert recruitment was to seek recommendations for

Front Line

Rural Regeneration through Promotion of Sericulture

Nepal

Growth expected in the sericulture industry

- ◆ No chance of improvement in living standards without improvements in agriculture

More than 80% of the population of Nepal is engaged in agriculture, and farming villages form the center of Nepali people's lives. Villages are scattered widely on the plains and throughout the hills and mountains. The type of agriculture practiced depends on the climate of each individual area.

Although there is a distinction between the dry season and the rainy season in the hilly and mountainous areas, the climate is generally mild, allowing for the production of temperate agricultural produce. There is potential for all kinds of commodities to be produced.

However, roads, electric power and other aspects of the social infrastructure are still largely inadequate. The difficulties of distribution in mountainous regions in particular mean that regional development has fallen behind.

Agriculture is of course the main industry in hilly and mountainous districts, and any improvement in the lives of people in these districts is going to be unrealizable

without giving consideration to agriculture as the economic foundation of daily life.

- ◆ Sericulture: an industry cultivated through slow but sure effort

It is within this context that sericulture is currently being promoted. The hilly and mountainous districts of Nepal are well suited to the breeding of silkworms. The industry is considered promising for many reasons: sericulture is likely to bring in a cash income; silk cocoons are light and can be easily carried through the mountains; cultivation of mulberry trees, which are used to rear silkworms, is an effective way to prevent the erosion of slopes which has become a distinct problem in Nepal; and women are able to participate directly.

It was more than 30 years ago that sericulture was introduced into Nepal, but the industry failed to develop extensively except in a few restricted areas because of the lack of an efficient system for giving instruction in silkworm breeding methods. Japan was asked to provide technical cooperation in this connection. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the Japanese experts who have been dispatched to Nepal to work on this project since 1995, a basic



Sericulture - a future leading industry of Nepal

system of instruction has now been established. The Nepalese government is creating a long-term plan for the future promotion of sericulture, and a number of sericulturists have begun to achieve high levels of profitability. Many farmers attend the regularly held study sessions. It is expected that sericulture will develop into one of Nepal's leading industries over the next decade.

(JICA Nepal Office)

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Project Implementation / Recruitment of Technical Cooperation Experts



Third-country training in Singapore. A Japanese expert gives a lecture at a productivity improvement course intended for Africa.

specialist candidates from related government ministries and departments, but with the increasing diversification of the needs of developing countries, it has become important to gain cooperation from the public at large, including the private sector and regional authorities. The implementation of public-participatory projects is also indispensable in order to gain understanding and support for ODA from the general public.

In the case of expert dispatch projects too, we solicit ideas for seminars from private think-tanks, local authorities and NGOs. These ideas are then presented to the recipient country, resulting in the holding of intellectual support seminars of the private-proposal type (see Close Up on p.130). Experts are also sent from local authorities with prior experience in the acceptance of training participants. The idea behind these activities is to encourage public participation and to direct as much experience and expertise as possible into the field of international cooperation.

We are also looking to expand the public recruitment of experts that began in FY1997 and are increasing opportunities for people who have the desire and capacity to become involved in development cooperation to take part in international cooperation.

A new type of public-participatory program due to begin in FY1999 is the development partnership program under which NGOs and local authorities with experience in international cooperation and universities are commissioned to undertake small-scale projects.

Tackling new needs

1. Cooperation with emergency needs

Expert recruitment projects demand as prompt and effective a response as possible to the needs of the

recipient country. For example, in FY1998, emergency support was provided for relief of the Asian economic crisis in economic and financial areas and for the relief of women and children, other socially vulnerable groups and the poor, who were particularly affected by the crisis. Experts were also dispatched to contribute to disaster relief and recovery following the hurricanes and earthquakes that struck Latin America. They have been particularly involved in preventing landslides and flooding. In each case, prompt cooperation has been provided to countries in need of emergency support.

2. Support with institution-building and policy planning

In addition to technical cooperation of a practical nature, expectations have been growing in recent years in connection with such areas as support with fiscal and monetary policy and legal improvements as well as global issues. JICA has therefore been sending policy advisors to key government bodies responsible for policy formulation in the recipient country to assist with institution-building and policy planning.

Improving institutions and formulating policies is an urgent priority especially in the former communist countries (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Central Asia and Eastern Europe) which are moving toward introduction of a market economy. JICA is providing small-scale project-type cooperation referred to as "key support for important policies" in the fields of industrial policy and human resources development in Poland, Uzbekistan and Jordan, and in the field of legal improvement in Vietnam and Cambodia.

3. Support for South-South cooperation

We are also working to support South-South cooperation, which involves relatively advanced developing countries cooperating with other developing countries, and are expanding the third-country expert dispatch program, which makes use of highly qualified personnel from third countries as experts. Together with third-country training, dispatch of third-country experts is one of the main constituents of JICA's support for South-South cooperation. This program involves sending experts from countries with similar natural environments, languages, technical levels and cultures to recipient countries in order to enable the smooth transfer of technology in line with those countries' needs. The opportunity to provide instruction raises the incentive for self-improvement on the part of the recruited experts themselves, benefitting both sides. A corresponding increase in both the number of requests being received and an interest in sending experts support

this belief. In total, 47 experts were dispatched in Asia, Latin America and Africa in FY 1998, including experts who were dispatched on the basis of a partnership program with Thailand and ethnic Japanese experts from Latin America.

4. Cooperation with Africa

We are intending to provide vigorous cooperation to African countries in connection with poverty alleviation and education on the basis of the action plan adopted at the 2nd Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II), which was held in Tokyo in October 1998.

For example, special country-specific training is being provided in connection with the introduction of democracy to El Salvador. Instructors in the training course are dispatched to El Salvador to give on-the-spot guidance. This method makes it possible to provide integrated cooperation.

We intend in the future to work toward increasing the effectiveness of aid by combining recruitment of experts and the acceptance of training participants in this way as part of a single cooperation package.

Encouraging the implementation of joint projects involving recruitment of experts and acceptance of training participants

JICA is combining various schemes and linking up with other aid agencies in order to raise the effectiveness of cooperation. In the conviction that implementation combining recruitment of experts with acceptance of training participants will enable an effective contribution to be made to human development in developing countries, we are working hard to formulate such projects in order to respond to the needs of recipient countries.

Program Issues and Responses

Strengthening the country-specific approach

To ensure the effective implementation of a project, the most important factor is how to accurately ascertain the needs of the recipient country. JICA is thus striving to strengthen yet further the country-specific approach by understanding the priority issues faced by each country and by considering how cooperation can best be provided to cope with these issues.

In the case of expert recruitment projects, it is not sufficient merely to place staff in each country and

Front Line

Dispatch of Experts to the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudio Superior de Policía (ICESPO)

El Salvador

Japan's "koban" (police-box) system contributes to democracy within the police force and maintenance of law and order

◆ A research institute with an important role to play

The ICESPO came into existence in 1994 on the basis of an agreement reached between the presidents of six Central American countries and has its headquarters in El Salvador. It serves to train instructors at police colleges in countries throughout the region.

During the 1980s, at the time of the conflict in Central America, most countries in the region became subject to accusations of breaches of human rights in respect to the actions of their military-dominated police forces against ordinary citizens. Now that conflict in the region has ended, these countries are taking these criticisms to heart and are working toward making their police forces more democratic. ICESPO is playing an important role in democratizing police forces in each country and in strengthening social stability and law and order in Central America.

◆ "Koban" system introduced at seminar

In November 1998, JICA sent an expert from Japan as part of the technical cooperation being provided to the institute. A regional police seminar was held at which the expert introduced Japan's "koban" (police box) system to more than 50 senior officials from police forces and police colleges throughout Central America.

On the last day, the Salvadorians distributed a report on the seminar content, a gesture symbolizing the extraordinary degree of interest shown in this event.

Hurricane Mitch caused damage of unprecedented proportions in Central America shortly before the seminar and prevented delegates from Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica from attending. All of us at JICA involved in preparations for the event, however, were astonished to see how contingents from Guatemala and Panama paid their own travel costs to attend, undeterred by the hurricane.

◆ Japan's experience and expertise ensures improved results

Japan's "koban" system is well known all over the world. Salvadoran police officials who had previously taken part in JICA's police-related group training were also aware of the system - "koban" have now been set up in five places in the center of the capital and are contributing to the maintenance of law and order.

The mass media in El Salvador carried out an opinion poll which showed that the maintenance of law and order was the primary wish of the public; a matter that they consider even more important than measures to combat unemployment and poverty.

The cooperation being provided to ICESPO is intended to transmit Japan's own experience and expertise as a law-abiding nation to provide suggestions on methods for maintaining law and order that match the social and cultural conditions of Central America.

(JICA El Salvador Office)

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respond individually to single requests submitted by the recipient country. What we are trying to do is to devise the most appropriate expert recruitment program following analysis of a particular country's priority issues.

We are particularly active in sending policy advisors to give advice on policy and development planning. These experts are able to clarify the issues faced by a country and how they might best be solved. This method of operation provides support for the identification and formulation of projects for which cooperation is likely to prove most effective.

In the case of countries to which experts are to be sent for the first time, study teams are sent to investigate the background to the request and work toward actualizing it.

Integrated implementation of various aid types

Ensuring the aid is as efficient as possible is an important matter today, when conditions facing the ODA budget are tight. More than ever before, we need to form links between individual forms of aid, to encourage linkage with the private sector, and to raise the effectiveness of aid.

We have already looked at the question of links with the private sector. As far as links between different types of aid is concerned, achieving links between financial cooperation (loan aid and grant aid)

and technical cooperation is of the utmost importance for enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation. JICA is striving to implement financial cooperation and technical cooperation more effectively than ever before by dispatching a large number of financial cooperation experts to provide support for the formulation of loan aid and grant aid cooperation projects, and to encourage the implementation of such projects.

Recruiting experts

Dispatch of experts appropriate to the recipient country's needs is extremely important if effective cooperation is to be achieved in an environment characterized by the ever more diverse and advanced needs of developing countries. The system whereby expert candidates are sought on the basis of recommendations from related government ministries and departments has now been supplemented. We are now trying to strengthen the international cooperation specialist and junior specialist system (a system of experts unique to JICA) and the expert registration system and to expand the open recruitment of experts.

Under JICA's new system, we plan to create an aid personnel data bank, establish a new expert registration system and public recruitment system, and set up a new department to deal with recruitment. We hope that such activities will both improve and speed up the recruitment of appropriate experts.

Front Line

Cross-border Fisheries Development Advisors

Fiji

A cross-border expert does the rounds of three countries

◆ An all-round expert on fisheries

One expert based in Fiji in the South Pacific is active as a "cross-border fisheries development advisor" in Fiji and the two neighboring island nations of Kiribati and Tuvalu. His responsibilities include giving advice on a whole range of fisheries-related projects, evaluating development projects, identifying and formulating new projects, and providing training to counterparts.

His wide-area technical cooperation activities in FY1998 took him to Kiribati on five occasions (38 days) and to Tuvalu also on five occasions (43 days). He also attended the Fisheries Conference of the South Pacific Committee in New Caledonia and visited Tonga to study fish-breeding methods. His boundless energy thus enabled him to visit many of the islands in the South Pacific region.

◆ Technical guidance given to nine individuals

Technical guidance is being given to a total of nine people, four in Fiji, two in Kiribati, and three in Tuvalu. In March 1999, counterparts from Kiribati and Tuvalu were invited to Fiji at the suggestion of the expert to attend a meeting of counterparts. The meeting began with an exchange of opinions among colleagues from different South Pacific countries and went on to embrace what in effect amounted to South-South cooperation, with visits to landing and processing facilities for tuna, a tuna jerky factory, and seaweed cultivation grounds.

For the benefit of JICA experts and senior overseas volunteers (S/V) active in Fiji, an Experts and S/V Liaison Meeting is held once a month to review activities in the region. This meeting gives experts and S/Vs the chance to both study and relax.



An advisor who travels between three countries as an all-round expert on fisheries.

The JICA experts and senior overseas volunteers also make good use of this opportunity to offer frank suggestions and criticisms to the JICA Fiji office.

(JICA Fiji Office)

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

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 that they face in their relations with local people and their work.

Cooperation is provided in seven fields, namely agriculture, forestry and fisheries, 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, 12 to the Philippines, and five to Malaysia). In FY1998, new dispatch agreements were concluded with an additional four countries (Kyrgyzstan, Burkina Faso, Uzbekistan and Djibouti), so that as of the end of March 1999, 71 countries had concluded JOCV dispatch agreements with Japan. We expect to conclude similar agreements with a further seven countries in the near future, including Turkey in the Middle East and Belize and St. Vincent in Central America.

In FY1998, 1,123 volunteers were sent for the first time. As of the end of March 1999, there were 2,288(*) active volunteers (including both newly dispatched volunteers and those continuing from the previous year) working in 166 different fields in 59 countries, making a total of 18,853 volunteers since the



A JOCV blends into the local community.

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 1999, 49% of JOCVs working overseas were women, and the proportion of women among all JOCVs since the inception of the program has risen to 33%.

Volunteers are generally sent for two years, but a strong desire has been expressed for a dispatch duration of one year. This can be explained by the difficulties encountered by JOCVs in resuming employment after returning to Japan and because of restrictions placed by companies on the length of time that employees can take off to engage in voluntary activities. A one-year JOCV dispatch system was therefore instituted in FY1999. A total of 15 "ordinary short-term volunteers" have now been sent to 12 countries.

Senior volunteers are former JOCVs who have passed the senior qualifying examination set by the JOCV secretariat. They are then sent overseas once again following selection 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 1999, there were 50 senior volunteers and 46 United Nations volunteers working overseas, bring the totals for these two types of volunteer to 302 and 160 respectively.

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

(*) Persons dispatched between April 1, 1998 and March 31, 1999.

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 1999 recruitment campaign, explanatory sessions were held at 260 venues nationwide. They were attended by 14,749 people, of whom 3,712 applied to become volunteers. In the fall recruitment campaign, sessions were held at 267 venues. These were attended by 13,783 people, of whom 4,440 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 FY1998, there were 674 successful candidates in the spring and 721 in the fall.

Pre-dispatch training

Successful applicants undergo approximately 80 days of residential pre-dispatch training as probationary volunteers. The aim is to increase the

adaptability they will need to cope smoothly with life and cooperation activities in the places to where they are posted. The training program incorporates the following main elements:

- (1) Courses dealing with the ideas underlying JOCV activities, understanding of foreign cultures, etc.;
- (2) Courses on conditions in the countries to which volunteers will be sent (political, economic and living conditions, etc.);
- (3) Courses on health, hygiene and vaccinations;
- (4) Courses on security;
- (5) Physical and outdoor training.

As far as linguistic skills are concerned, courses are available in around 20 languages including English, French, Spanish, Swahili, and Nepali.

Training takes place three times a year at three locations: the JOCV Hiroo Training Institute in Tokyo's Shibuya ward, the Nihonmatsu JOCV Training Institute in Fukushima Prefecture, and the Komagane JOCV Training Institute 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 528 people took part in these programs in FY1998. Training may last between several days and nine months as necessary.

1. Training in skills appropriate to requests

Front Line

Outside Activities of JOCV Candidates

Fukushima

The importance of studying from actual experience

◆ Outside activities provide plenty of opportunities for learning

"Outside activities" constitute a part of the training of JOCV candidates. The training involves spending three days helping out at farms, nursery schools and other institutions in the vicinity of Nihonmatsu City. The purpose is to foster the volunteer spirit and to establish relationships with the local community; however, the candidates learn still more from engaging in these activities.

Candidates working in an institution for the mentally disabled may find it difficult to know how to respond to the residents on the first day, but by the second day they find themselves better able to cope as a result of their preconceptions being supplemented by

a more practical understanding. On the third and final day they become able to think about the working environments of disabled people and the features of the institutions which care for them.

Many candidates visiting farms found themselves engaged in farm work for the first time in their lives, and they were able to have some idea of just how hard it is to cultivate vegetables and flowers. There was even a candidate who said that, on the basis of this experience, he would like to take up farming when he returned to Japan in two years time.

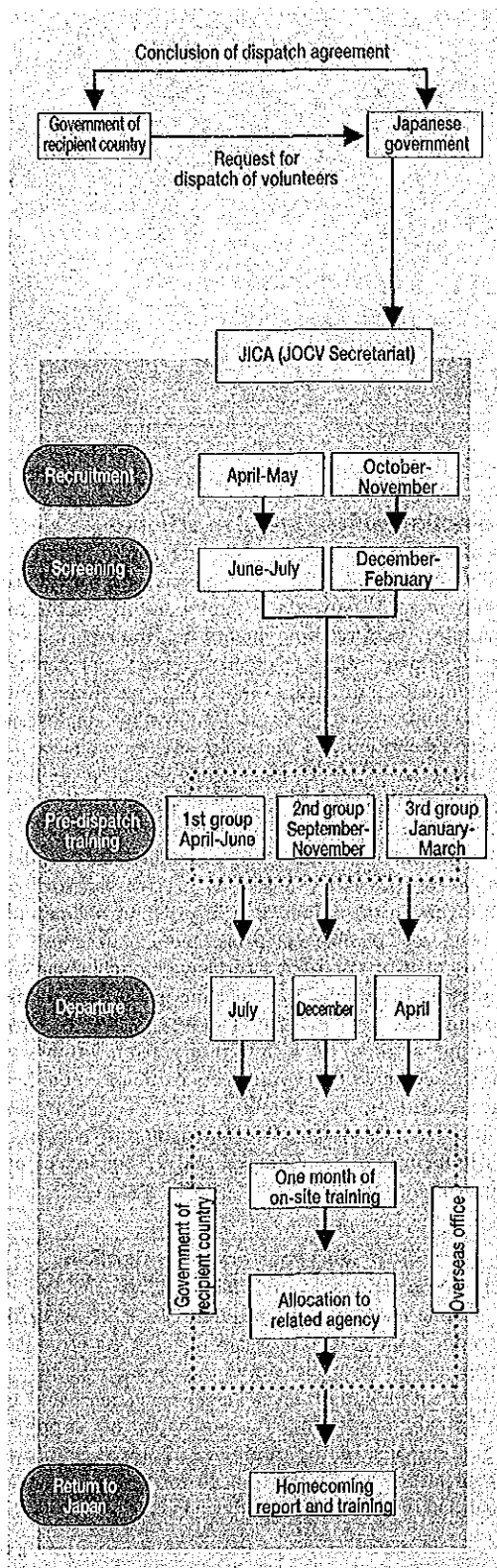
Candidates with a particular fondness for children are most likely to go to nursery schools, and many of these people return with a renewed awareness of the innocence and boundless energy of children.

◆ The most important aspects of pre-dispatch training

The activities of volunteers in the places to which they are sent demand total involvement, and situations often arise which cannot be dealt with solely on the basis of a reasoned response. There are some candidates who labor under the misapprehension that pre-dispatch training is concerned exclusively with linguistic study, but the most important aspect of this training is in fact the experience gained through outside activities. We intend therefore to incorporate practical activities into training so as to ensure that the content of the training is of real use to JOCVs in the places to which they are sent.

(JICA Nihonmatsu JOCV Training Center)

Fig. 3-9 The JOCV Dispatch System



Training of this type is provided for volunteers whose technical skills are adequate but who are considered to be 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 in practical skills

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.

III

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 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 is 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 his or her 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 JOCV Secretariat and JICA branches and centers within Japan to give them advice, to

Chapter 2

Project Implementation / Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

provide employment information, and to explore future career possibilities.

Of the 1,118 volunteers who returned to Japan in FY1997, by the end of FY1998, 846 had decided on their careers: 242 returned to their previous jobs, 459 took up employment (including self-employment), and 145 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 JICA'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) Submission of information to the mass media and cooperation with media coverage.
- (6) Dispatch of junior JOCVs.

The chance to come into contact with conditions in developing countries and the reality of international cooperation is likely to stimulate an interest in international cooperation activities on the part of young people. A system taking advantage of the summer school vacation that involves the dispatch of senior JOCVs has thus been instituted aimed specially at senior high school pupils. This system was started in FY1998, when 30 pupils were sent overseas, from Okinawa Prefecture to Nepal, from Fukushima Prefecture to the Philippines, and from Ibaraki Prefecture to Malaysia.

(7) Backup program dispatch

This system was started in FY1998 and involves the dispatch of ordinary volunteers for one month with the aim of providing temporary support for JOCVs on active service. Groups consisting primarily of university students were sent to Ghana to assist village development volunteers with the dissemination of improved ovens; to the Solomon Islands to assist archaeology volunteers with the arrangement and cataloging of archaeological materials; and to El Salvador to assist physical education volunteers conduct measuring tests of physical strength.



On-site interaction contributes to character formation.

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 that 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 203 volunteers participated on this understanding in FY1998: four civil service employees, 106 local government employees, one government agency employee, and 92 employees of private companies.

Cooperation with related organizations

1. The Association to Foster Volunteers

Private benefactors formed this association 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.

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. Links 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 governments. Prefectural groups of former volunteers are assisting JICA with recruitment and with enhancing awareness of JOCV projects.

4. Cooperation with local governments

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.

The JOCV Secretariat provides recommendations for counterparts* (skilled people in developing countries to whom volunteers directly transfer their skills) of JOCV volunteers in connection with the technical training in Japan of overseas participants implemented by local government bodies. Such training is carried out either through subsidies provided for organizations promoting overseas technical cooperation (local government subsidies) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or independent sources of funding. In FY1998, 100 overseas participants from 33 countries completed technical training in various specialized fields for about ten months under the auspices of 34 local government bodies.

5. Cooperation with other organizations

Meetings are held with economic and labor organizations that include opinion exchanges 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.

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Front Line

Support for Recovery in Nicaragua following the Damage Wreaked by Hurricane Mitch

Aichi

Responsibility of witnesses familiar with the local situation

◆ The desire to do something lies behind the creation of a fund

Eyewitnesses have a responsibility to act, and this adage applies very much to former JOCVs who have seen for themselves that there are still many countries that remain in a state of deprivation. Former JOCVs who had worked in the five countries of Central America severely hit by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 felt that they wanted to help in some way, and these feelings bore fruit in the creation of various recovery funds. Having witnessed for themselves the conditions in these countries, these former JOCVs decided to provide information to the general public on the state of the damage and to solicit contributions to a fund.

Activities in Aichi Prefecture to support the Nicaragua Recovery Fund centered on former JOCVs who had been sent to Nicaragua. Newspaper companies cooperated with these activities and support was received from many people.

Current and former JOCVs involved in recovery support had different roles to play. There were those who solicited funds in Japan, those who contributed to the donations, those who made their manpower available, those who gave their support for the activities, those who traveled to the afflicted area to deliver food supplies, and those who presented puppet theater performances to encourage people who had been hurt physically and mentally by the disaster. Activities are still continuing with the efforts of all participants.

◆ Support in a spirit of sincerity

The Nicaragua Recovery Fund had received donations amounting to around ¥4 million six months after the disaster. Part of the fund was distributed through Japanese people living in Nicaragua to assist with the provision of emergency supplies and medical treatment to disaster victims, and to sponsor a poultry-farming project intended to provide long-term support for the provision of food.



Chicks hatched from eggs as part of the poultry-farming project supported by recovery funds.

Around ¥1 million was used as support conveying the deeply felt concern of so many Japanese people. It is up to us to monitor these recovery support activities.

(JICA Tokai Branch)

Other volunteer activities

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

Japan Overseas Development Youth Volunteers and Senior Cooperation Experts for 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, which was originally formed as the Overseas Development Youth Program in FY1985, gained its current name and content following its transfer to the JOCV Secretariat in FY1996. As of the end of March 1999, 110 volunteers were active in eight countries working primarily in the educational and cultural sector. A total of 519 volunteers have now been sent since this program was begun.

Projects involving the Senior Overseas Volunteers and the Senior Cooperation Experts for Overseas Japanese Communities were started in FY1990 and were transferred to the JOCV Secretariat in FY1996. As of the end of March 1998, 79 Senior Overseas Volunteers were active in 12 countries and 31 Senior Cooperation Experts on Overseas Japanese Communities were active in five countries. The total numbers of volunteers dispatched since these programs were instituted have reached 217 and 143 respectively.

Future Responses

As was the case in FY1998, the conditions facing the ODA budget in FY1999 were severe, despite the allocation of ¥19.5 billion yen for JOCV activities, itself an increase of 4.6% from the previous year. The budget allowed for the recruitment of 1,350 JOCVs (ordinary volunteers). Dispatch of 100 volunteers - 40 more than the previous year - was also authorized. These figures give some indication of the high hopes held out for the activities of Japanese volunteers and the high assessment of these activities.

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



It is essential to have a firm grasp of exactly what people require.

Openings for new fields of dispatch

Various new fields of work that do not require specialized knowledge of scientific subjects are now being developed. Several fields involving, for instance, social workers active in collaboration with the WHO in combating polio and assisting the weaker members of society were instituted in FY1999 and are attracting large numbers of applicants. Cooperation with embassies and JICA overseas offices will be strengthened in the future in order to open up similar new fields of activity.

Bolstering support for career development for volunteers after their return to Japan

The following methods are being considered to bolster support for career development for returning volunteers and to enhance the general assessment of JOCV activities:

- (1) Intercession with the Ministry of Education and education committees to encourage the employment of returning volunteers as teaching staff;
- (2) Strengthening public relations activities to assist returning volunteers with their future careers.

After returning to Japan, JOCVs 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 JOCVs 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.

Expansion of Senior Overseas Volunteer activities

With the gradual aging of the Japanese population, there is a growing awareness of the contribution that older people can make as volunteers. To this social background, the JOCV Secretariat is reviewing its project implementation system with a view to increasing the scale of recruitment and increasing the number of countries to which senior volunteers are dispatched.

Events to mark the 35th anniversary of the JOCV

The year 2000 coincides with the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the JOCV. The following year, 2001, has been named the UN International Year of Volunteers. We are thus in a period when more and more interest and understanding are being shown in volunteer activities at home and abroad. The JOCV Secretariat intends to make the widest possible use of its achievements and experience as a pioneer in the field of international volunteer activities for the preparation of various commemorative events, including the publication of commemorative literature. It is hoped that this will enable the JOCV Secretariat to play a leading role in making suggestions regarding the ideal portrayal of volunteer activities in the age to come.



Senior overseas volunteers are able to make full use in overseas environments of their many years of experience gained in Japan.

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Front Line

Activities of Health and Medical Volunteers

Cote d'Ivoire

Sure response with the emergence of instructors full of enthusiasm and self-confidence

◆ Health and medical volunteers disseminate public health education

The Cote d'Ivoire is the most economically advanced country in West Africa, but there are still considerable inequalities between urban and rural areas. The government considers health and education to be its main development issue and is doing all it can to rectify any imbalances.

In rural areas, the main priorities are upgrading primary medical services and disseminating public health education on the basis of primary health care* (PHC). In total, nine JOCV health and medical volunteers (nurses, midwives, clinical technicians, and nutritionists) are currently active in their postings to village medical clinics.

The JOCVs encounter various problems in the course of their daily activities at the clinics: ailments such as tetanus - which have virtually disappeared from Japan - malnutrition and persistent diarrhea in children caused by mothers' lacking knowledge in health matters; and unplanned pregnancies among young people with little sexual education.

◆ From sporadic to integrated activities

Changes in the attitude to public health on the part of the local people are essential if this situation is to be remedied. Directing themselves especially to health instructors in the villages (unpaid individuals appointed by the government), JOCVs explain how important it is to disseminate education on public health to ensure that people actually put public health measures into practice. At the same time, they have been working toward the creation of an environment that enables the provision of basic medical treatment in the villages.

Public lecture meetings aimed at local people are held in connection with subjects such as HIV/AIDS, diarrhea and malaria. JOCVs also invite doctors from local health care offices to take part in discussions of the problems posed by the activities. Efforts such as these stimulate the self-confidence and enthusiasm of instructors and have gradually revitalized their activities. A sense of unity has begun to emerge between instructors over and above their particular districts, and these activities have begun to assume an integrated character rather



Activities of local health instructors are being stimulated by the efforts of JOCVs

than being mere isolated instances.

The reality of this country is that the government budget is extremely tight, and any attempt to raise the level of health and medical services in the regions is forced to depend upon the activities of the unpaid health instructors. However, despite being unpaid, more and more instructors are working in a spirit of enthusiasm and self-confidence, and we have gained a real sense that our activities have made a solid start.

(JICA Cote d'Ivoire Office)

Grant Aid



BHN-related projects have priority for grant aid
(joint water supply facility in Zambia)

Outline of the program

Range of the program

Grant aid constitutes part of 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 materials 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, rehabilitation grants*, grants for support for human resource centers, and grants for clearance of anti-personnel mines), debt relief grants, non-project grant aid for structural adjustment support, grant aid for overseas students, and grant aid for grassroots projects*;

(2) Fisheries 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 and grants for the support of overseas students, (2) fisheries grants, (5) food aid, and (6) aid for increased food production.

The work performed by JICA includes 1) prior studies concerned primarily with checking on the content of requests for grant aid, the scale of the project, and the approximate costs; 2) stimulating implementation through the exercise of control in such a way that grant aid projects which begin after the signing of and exchange of an intergovernmental agreement (Exchange of Notes E/N) are appropriately implemented in line with the E/N and the supply guidelines; and 3) follow-up activities aimed at maintaining and enhancing the effects of a project.

Objects of the program

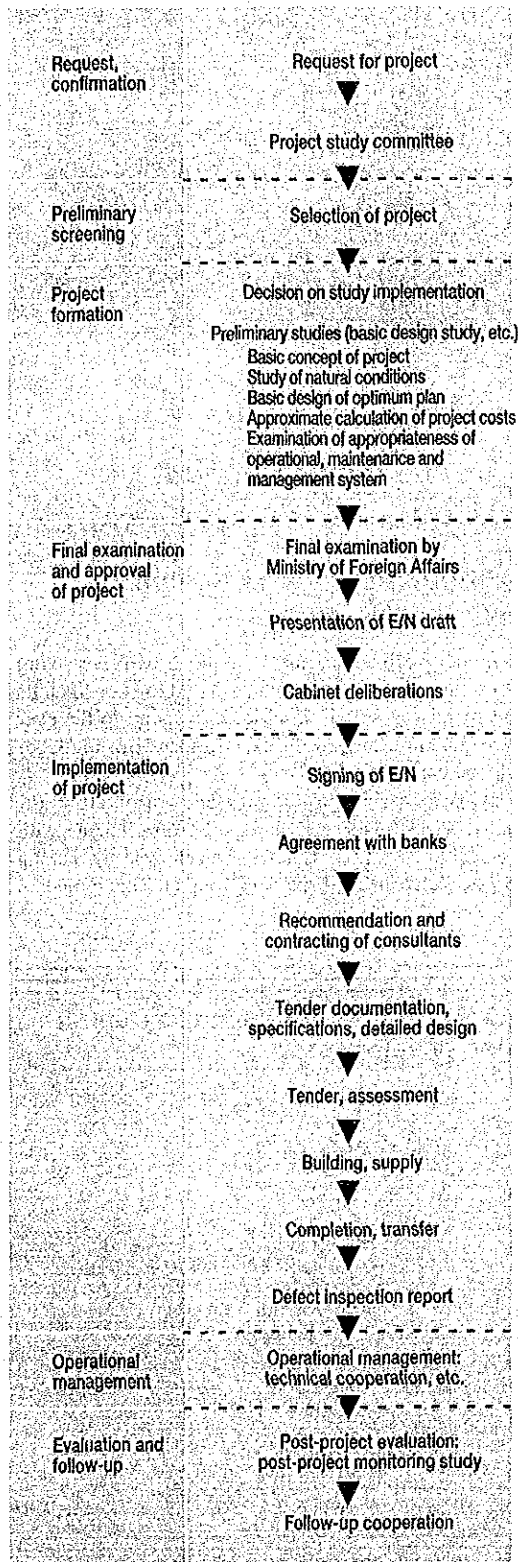
Countries eligible for receiving grant aid are selected from among those that qualify for interest-free financing from the International Development Association* (IDA). The projects concerned must involve basic fields required for nation-building in developing countries, and countries should be unable to implement them with their own funds and borrowing capacity. Projects entailing commercial profit, high-tech projects out of line with the technical levels of the recipient country, and those which run the risk of being channeled to military ends are ineligible.

Grant aid is made available mainly for human resources development such as education and research, health and medical care, daily water supply (service water and drainage development), agriculture and farming villages, public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and airports, and environmental conservation projects.

The grant aid program thus gives priority in particular to BHN-related projects that answer the most basic needs of human life. It is intended to contribute to nation-building in recipient countries while ensuring wide-ranging linkage with technical cooperation provided by Japan and other donors (i.e. countries and agencies providing aid).

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.

Fig. 3-10 The grant aid project cycle and the principal stages



Procedure of JICA grant aid activities

Under the current system, grant aid projects, which are requested by developing countries, are studied by a project study group within JICA as to their necessity, urgency, and technical difficulties. The results of these studies are then passed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In FY1998, 357 proposals were examined by JICA. 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. They then present comments on the proposals.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs then examines these comments. If a recommended project is considered to be of sufficiently 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. In FY1998, 107 basic design studies were performed.

Upon completion of preliminary studies, projects are presented to the cabinet after practical consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 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 FY1998 included 152 general grant aid projects, 13 fisheries grant projects, 29 food aid projects, and 56 increased food production projects.

Grant aid projects on which a final decision has been taken are initiated with the signing of an exchange of notes (E/N) by the governments of Japan and the recipient country. At the same time, JICA receives instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to proceed with the project. Grant aid projects are implemented once contracts have been concluded between the government of the recipient country and Japanese consultants and businesses. JICA encourages the smooth and appropriate implementation of a project in this connection by recommending consultants and submitting "Supply Guidelines" indicating the basic approach to project implementation.

After JICA has completed a grant aid project, the project is then handed over to the recipient country. In

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A central market created with grant aid (Solomon Islands).



cases where the government of that country is unable to continue to carry out the necessary maintenance and management, JICA will provide follow-up cooperation. Follow-up cooperation involves the dispatch of experts and study teams to carry out repairs and construction work. On occasion, cooperation aimed at restoring essential functions is provided through the supply of updated equipment or spare parts. Such follow-up plays an indispensable role in enabling sustainable development and human development in recipient countries.

Project Topics

Strengthening the system of implementation

In a difficult environment for ODA, JICA is striving to raise the quality of its operations and to strengthen its implementation system in order to respond to the ever more diverse and complex cooperation needs of recipient countries.

JICA is striving to identify and formulate high-quality projects with a view to bolstering linkage with technical cooperation. This will be achieved by making more effective use of the functions and personnel of

Close Up

Grant Aid Projects Contributing to Human Resources Development

Gradually expanding from provision of facilities

The Japanese government considers "human resources development" to be a priority element in ODA with a clearly visible profile. It is in this context that new fields of cooperation are gradually expanding within the field of grant aid. FY1999 saw the start of two new forms of grant aid, one for support with human resources development facilities and the other for support aimed at overseas students.

Support for the establishment of human resources development facilities through grant aid is aimed at providing more solid support for Japan's human resources development cooperation. It involves the construction of facilities and the supply of materials and equipment for the training of

personnel to engage in practical activities in developing countries as well as for Japanese language education, instruction for overseas students, and presentation of information on Japan.

Grant aid support for overseas students is intended to encourage the acceptance of students from other countries into Japan. This is cooperation in the form of grants for preliminary education in developing countries, costs of travel to and from Japan, accommodation costs in Japan, as well as study fees.

We anticipate that the addition of such wholehearted cooperation with human resources development will have the effect of enabling grant aid to provide an even

wider response to the requirements of developing countries.

Grant aid for anti-personnel land mine measures was instituted in FY1999. The aims of this new form of grant aid are to assist the victims of land mines through the construction of hospitals, clinics and rehabilitation centers and the provision of related equipment. At the same time, the supply of land mine detection and clearance equipment and related devices will give support to anti-personnel land mine clearance activities.

The scope of grant aid is thus gradually being expanded to include much more than the mere provision and upgrading of buildings and facilities.

international agencies and other donors as well as JICA's overseas offices, international cooperation experts, and project formulation advisors.

Design and calculation

Since they make use of the precious ODA sector of the national budget, grant aid projects are realized with approximate project costs calculated through basic design surveys. It is of utmost importance to conduct stringent investigations of the most appropriate design standards and calculations in line with requests received from recipient nations.

JICA has always striven to ensure that these examinations are as comprehensive as possible. However, in FY1999 JICA established an examination office - in cooperation with external experts - to introduce further refinement into basic design. We have also been sending grant aid researchers to facilitate the exchange of opinions with all those concerned at the implementation stage.

JICA is also working on revising the content of the guidelines that indicate basic approaches to project implementation.

As well as increasing the number of projects incorporating cooperation for initial managerial guidance and maintenance within the framework of grant aid, we are trying to strengthen ties with financial cooperation link experts and the project-type technical cooperation scheme so as to ensure that grant aid projects can be implemented in a sustained and effective manner in recipient countries.

Information and publicity

As a result of enactment of the Public Disclosure of Information Law, public disclosure of information relating to ODA projects has become more important than ever before.

To ensure that JICA's operations are totally transparent, we are disclosing information on matters such as the outcome of studies and tenders, and are currently examining how best to disclose the results of projects in a readily comprehensible manner. We are also preparing videos and pamphlets introducing our operations to ensure that the Japanese public is kept fully abreast of JICA activities.



Front Line

Guinea Worm Eradication Action Plan

Niger

Ongoing efforts to eradicate parasites

◆ Education in hygiene and provision of safe drinking water

The guinea worm parasite is continuing to afflict people throughout West Africa from the drinking of unclean water. Water fleas in the water harbor the larvae of the guinea worm, which if drunk, will painfully emerge a year later in the form of tiny worms from blisters on the arms and legs. With treatment, the worms will be ejected from the body after three or four days, but as they emerge from the skin the sufferer experiences swelling, acute pain, itching and high fever which make any form of productive work impossible.

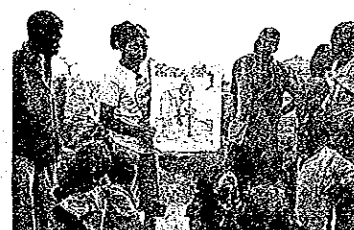
A Guinea Worm Eradication Committee was created in Niger in 1993, and a Guinea Worm Eradication Action Plan was formulated. The activities center on health education for local communities and the supply of clean drinking water. Health education is being provided with the support of organizations associated with this

committee such as WHO, Unicef, and the Global 2000 NGO.

◆ Building wells in villages

Japan's cooperation with this eradication plan involves primarily the construction of wells in villages with grant aid and the provision of health education for local communities using JOCVs. The key points of guinea worm eradication are simple: inform people with emerging worms not to go near wells used by villagers (to avoid re-contamination of the water by new larvae) and persuade people not to drink untreated water from ponds and marshes. Efforts are being made to make people more aware of hygiene and to spread the use of filters for pond water.

However, for various cultural reasons, many people in Niger continue to drink pond water contaminated by the guinea worm. They believe the water to be nutritious; and using water from the same ponds and marshes is for many people a



JICA personnel tour villages providing health education with picture cards.

way of cementing their community bonds. Trying to spread hygiene awareness in the context of such traditional values is no easy matter, but we will continue to do all we can to make headway.

(JICA Niger Office)

Development Cooperation

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.

Of the various types of development project implemented by Japanese private companies in developing countries, this cooperation program is concerned primarily with projects that 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 3-11.

Types of Project

Investment and financing

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

- (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



An experimental project conducted in Malaysia on the development of raw materials for ceramics (glass for use in light bulbs).

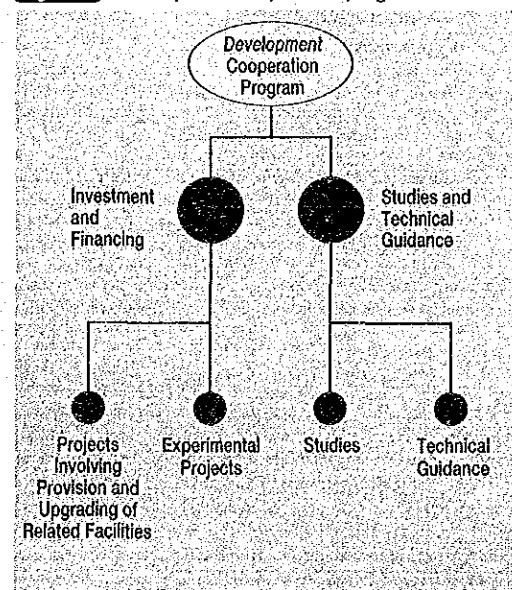
requirements. Projects eligible for financing and investment are described below.

Projects involving provision and upgrading of related facilities

When development projects have already received loans, guarantees of obligation, or financing from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the Japan National Oil Corporation, the Metal Mining Agency of Japan, the Central Bank for Agriculture and Forestry, the Shoko Chukin Bank or JICA, it may sometimes be difficult to obtain further loans from the JBIC for provision or upgrade of facilities.

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

Fig. 3-11 Development cooperation program



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.

One loan was provided in FY1998 for a project involving upgrading of facilities, with total financing amounting to ¥200 million.

Experimental projects

An experimental project is a type of development project that cannot be realized unless combined with technical improvements and development. Financing and investment for experimental projects are directed toward projects that lie outside the scope of financing from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

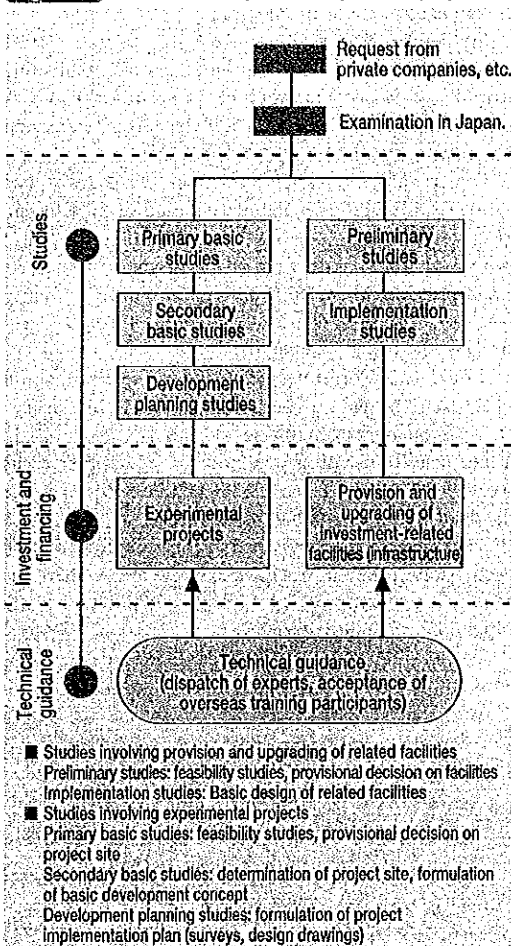
Experimental projects include cultivation of crops, livestock breeding, afforestation, development of unused timber resources, excavation, screening and refining of non-ferrous minerals such as limestone, rock phosphate and rock salt, and construction of low-cost housing. Six loans were made in FY1998 for experimental projects, the total amount of financing being approximately ¥260 million.

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 acceptance of overseas participants for technical training.

Fig. 3-12 Flow of development cooperation projects



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.

The following two studies are under way at present, involving collection and analysis of growth data and the creation of afforestation manuals and management models:

(1) Local fact-finding survey on stratified forest management methods in Malaysia

Studies have been taking place since October 1991 in the state of Perak in Malaysia aimed at establishing multi-level forest management methods through a combination of high-quality Dipterocarpus trees and fast-growing species.

Dipterocarpus trees have relatively weak resistance to direct sunlight during the early period of growth and grow very slowly. It has been demonstrated that combining them with fast-growing species such as acacia provides them with protection during the early stages of growth and produces income through early felling of the faster growing trees.

(2) Local fact-finding survey on conservation and development of mangrove forest resources in Indonesia

Tests on the regeneration of mangrove swamps in former prawn-breeding ponds and felled forest areas have been under way since November 1992 on the islands of Bali and Lombok in Indonesia.

These tests have shown that the selection of tree species appropriate to tide levels, in the areas where the trees are growing, is of vital importance for the cultivation of mangrove forests.

The management of mangrove forest resources through the use of appropriate cultivation methods will

not only produce supplies of timber - this ecosystem (known locally as the "cradle of the sea") will also bring many benefits to the local people.

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.

Table 3-13 Loan conditions for financing and investment

Type of project	Size of project	Investment ratio	Maximum investment sum	Interest	Repayment term	Deferral term
Related facilities provision project (1) Ordinary	Up to ¥700 million	100%	¥700 million	0.75%	max. 20 years	max. 5 years
	¥700 million to ¥3 billion	85%	¥2.655 billion	0.75%	max. 20 years	max. 5 years
	¥3 billion to ¥4.5 billion	85%	¥3.93 billion	2.0 to 3.5%	max. 30 years	max. 5 years
(2) Special (*)	Over ¥4.5 billion	100%	¥4.5 billion	0.75%	max. 30 years	max. 10 years

Notes:

a) Financing conditions in cases of special need when the project costs more than ¥4.5 billion are determined through separate discussions.

b) The conditions of *1 are applicable in cases of transfer by means of grant aid to the government of the recipient country following provision of the facilities, projects involving repairs to facilities owned by the government of the recipient country, afforestation projects of the environmental conservation type, and provision of facilities for relieving pressure on the environment (only in cases where the environmental standards of the recipient country are exceeded).

Type of project	Size of project	Investment ratio	Maximum investment sum	Interest	Repayment term	Deferral term
Experimental projects	Up to ¥500 million	100%	¥500 million	0.75%	max. 20 years (30 years) ²	max. 5 years (10 years) ²
	¥500 million to ¥2 billion	85% (100%) ³	¥1.775 billion (¥2 billion) ³	2.5 to 3.5%	max. 20 years (30 years) ²	max. 5 years (10 years) ²

Notes:

a) Financing conditions in cases of special need when the project costs more than ¥4.5 billion yen are determined through separate discussions.

b) Interest (min. 3.5%) in accordance with OECD guidelines is generally applied in the case of projects executed in industrialized countries, the exact level being determined through separate discussions.

c) The conditions of *2 apply to infrastructure, afforestation and environmental conservation-type afforestation projects.

d) The conditions of *3 apply to environmental maintenance-type afforestation projects.

Dispatch of experts

When a company is unable on its own initiative to respond adequately to technical problems arising in the project implementation process, it will request JICA to dispatch appropriately skilled experts to provide 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.

Studies and technical guidance in FY1998

In FY1998, 28 study teams and 33 experts (both long-standing and new) were dispatched overseas and 28 people were brought to Japan for training.

Close Up

Linkage between JICA and the JBIC for Financing Private Companies

Sapporo "Brau" created through international cooperation

JICA's development financing is directed toward experimental projects executed by Japanese companies in developing regions. Ideally, an experimental project successfully expands into a full-scale project and financing is received from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation as the project grows in scale.

An example is the financing provided to Sapporo Breweries, Ltd., in connection with a project involving cultivation of hops in China. In 1987, Sapporo Breweries received financing from JICA to start an experimental project involving the cultivation of aromatic hops in the Sinkiang-Uighur autonomous region of China. During the five-year experimental period, various types of hop suited to the region were selected and a system of cultivation technology was established. A full-scale project was then begun with OECF funding in 1990.

This project is at present making a major contribution to the local economy: 102 hectares are under cultivation, 320 people are employed full-time, and temporary employment is provided for between 2,000



Sapporo Breweries' hop farm in China

and 3,000 workers during the harvesting season. The farm provides approximately 20% of the hops needed by Sapporo Breweries, and has thus grown to become an important production base for the company. The hops are marketed as "Silk Road" hops untreated with agricultural chemicals and are used in a wide range of products. The "Brau" brand of beer is made exclusively from these hops.

In order to contribute to the local community, Sapporo Breweries made improvements in 1999 to nearby roads and waterways with financing from JICA intended specifically for upgrading related facilities. A "Hop, Step, Jump" link system has thus emerged, beginning with JICA's original test project, moving on to a full-scale OECF project, and finally becoming a JICA-related facilities upgrading project.

Disaster Relief



Members of a JDR team engaged in relief activities after an earthquake in Colombia.

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. In September 1987 the provision of disaster relief was properly systematized with the promulgation and enactment of the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law (also known as the JDR Law), which provided for practical relief.

This law was partially amended in June 1992, making it possible for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, after consultation with the Director General of the

Defense Agency, to send teams from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces in two situations, namely (1) when a disaster on a large scale occurs and extensive aid is required, and (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.

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 affected 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

Fig. 3-14 Mechanism for implementation of emergency disaster aid (excluding capital assistance)

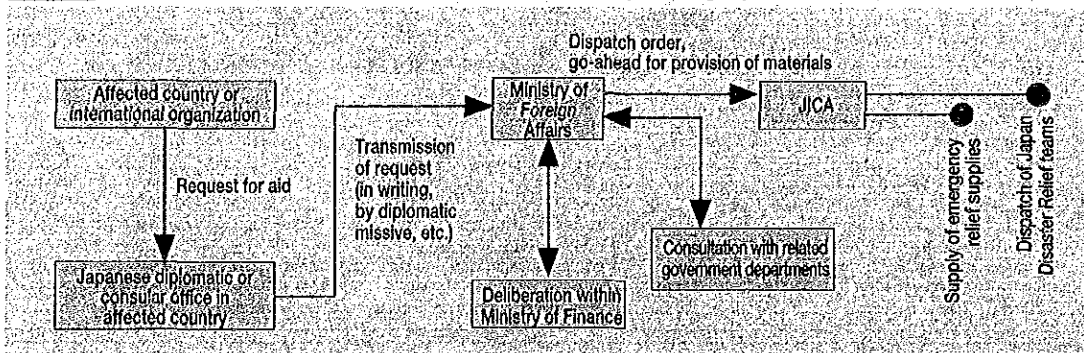
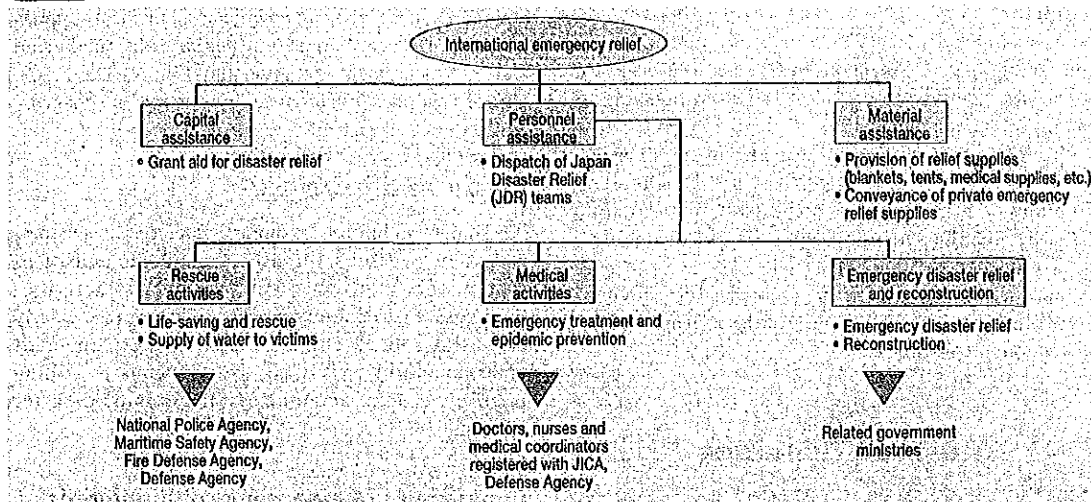


Fig. 3-15 Japan's International Emergency Relief System



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.

A feature of medical teams is that they have taken over as the main dispatch units from the JMTDR (Japan Medical Team for Disaster Relief) teams which conducted medical activities prior to enactment of the JDR Law.

As of the end of March 1999, there were 558 people (197 doctors, 238 nurses, and 123 medical coordinators) 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 achieve recovery. Teams are made up of experts recommended by related government ministries and agencies according to the type of disaster.

Program Results

Before enactment of the JDR Law in September 1987, there had been 19 cases of team dispatch and 14 cases of materials supply, but since the law came into effect there have been 46 cases of team dispatch and 194 cases of materials supply.

In total, seven teams were sent in FY1998 in response to a *tsunami* disaster in Papua New Guinea, flooding in Bangladesh, hurricane damage in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Honduras, and an earthquake in Colombia. There were 30 cases of materials supply in response to disasters such as an earthquake in Bolivia. Relief activities connected with catastrophic floods that struck China included two deliveries of emergency aid in the form of equipment and materials, and donation of blankets from local government authorities and private individuals.

Recent activities of JDR rescue teams include relief work at the site of a building collapse in Egypt in October 1996 and earthquake disaster relief in Colombia in January 1999.

Medical teams have been active recently in providing relief following a tornado which struck Bangladesh in May 1996, a *tsunami* in Papua New Guinea in July 1998, a hurricane in the Dominican Republic in October 1998, a hurricane in Nicaragua in November 1998, and an earthquake in Colombia in January 1999. In each case, teams of individuals registered with JMTDR were put together and sent into the field.

Recent activities of expert teams have included fire-fighting, disaster prevention, combating marine pollution, environmental surveying, and fighting infectious diseases. Teams have been sent to assist with measures to combat air pollution in Malaysia in

September 1997, to deal with forest disasters in Indonesia in September 1997, to prevent further damage from an oil spill in Singapore in October 1997, and to assist with measures to provide relief from flooding in Bangladesh in September 1998.

Relief was provided in the wake of the disaster resulting from a hurricane which struck Honduras in November 1998. Owing to the vast scale of this disaster and the enormous quantity of assistance needed, members of the Self-Defense Forces were sent for the first time to engage in emergency aid activities involving provision of medical treatment and prevention of epidemics.

Related activities

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

Provision, procurement and storing 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 in 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 Unicef Procurement and Assembly Centre (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 affected 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 affected country. These supplies are then handed over in principle to the country's government.

Close Up

First JDR Dispatch Involving the Self-Defense Forces

Warmly welcomed by the international community

One of the largest hurricanes recorded this century struck the Central American nation of Honduras in November 1998. Hurricane Mitch caused unprecedented damage throughout the region. The Japanese government provided emergency aid supplies and decided to dispatch members of the Self-Defense Forces for the first time as part of the JDR response. JICA's task was to send the team and obtain the necessary equipment. JICA staff were also sent to the area as operational coordinators.

An 80-strong Self-Defense Forces team, 20 employees of the Ministry of Foreign

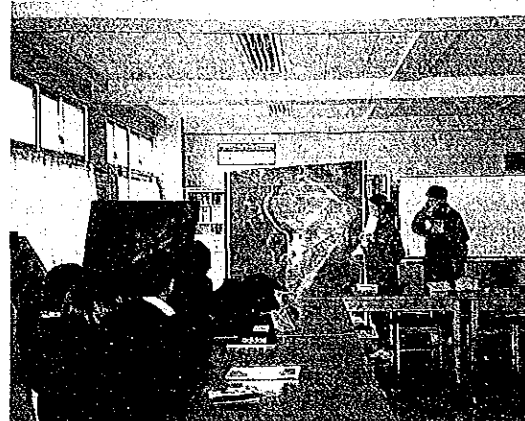
Affairs and JICA, and 16 JOCVs worked together on emergency aid activities, seeing to the medical needs of more than 4,000 people and working on epidemic prevention over an area of about 33,000 square meters. Their efforts were warmly welcomed not only in Honduras but by the international community as a whole.

These direct aid activities proved enormously successful. They also encouraged the formation of friendly relations between Japan and Honduras through exchange between the team members and the local people.



This first venture proved highly successful.

Support for Japanese Emigrants and Ethnic Japanese



Pupils from a Japanese-language school in Brazil benefit from study at a junior high school in Yokohama (training for pupils at Japanese-language schools).

III

Background to the Program

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

Japanese emigrants and their descendants all over the world have overcome the many difficulties confronting them and have created mature ethnic Japanese communities in the countries to which they now belong as fully-participating citizens. During the postwar years, many Japanese emigrated to Brazil and other parts of Latin America, where they are now playing key roles in the industrial and economic development of these countries, particularly in the field of agriculture.

A new generation of ethnic Japanese is now emerging in these countries, and the community itself is at present largely second to fourth generation. Members of these later generations are leading lights in fields such as politics, administration, the economy, academia, and culture, and are thus fueling the development of these countries. Their efforts are also playing a major role in encouraging international cooperation.

In countries with large Japanese immigrant communities, the existence of these communities is contributing significantly to the stimulation of friendship and cooperation between Japan and the countries in question.

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) 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 that formed part of the emigration program for overseas Japanese communities, we are implementing those that are strongly oriented toward technical cooperation (e.g., provision of training in Japan and dispatch of Japanese experts and volunteers) as an element of JICA's technical development scheme from FY1996 onward, as follows:

- (1) Training in Japan for members of overseas Japanese communities (formerly "acceptance of emigrant training participants");
- (2) Dispatch of experts to 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:

Chapter 2

Project Implementation / Support for Japanese Emigrants and Ethnic Japanese

Publicity

In order to deepen understanding among the Japanese public of overseas emigrants and Japanese overseas communities, the activities of emigrants and ethnic Japanese 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 ethnic Japanese living outside Japan.

Training for 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. In FY1998, 41 pupils visited Japan on this program.

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 FY1993. A productivity enhancement course and a personal computer course attended by 15 students were held in FY1998.



A Saturday market in Sao Paulo's "Japan Town".

3. Training for ethnic Japanese young men and women

In order to give overseas ethnic 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 students of Japanese descent

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 overseas

Various projects are being implemented to support emigrants and improve their living conditions.

Close Up

Overseas Japanese Communities in a Period of Transition

Exploring relationships with the next generation

Japanese emigration to Latin America has a history stretching back for more than a century. Ethnic Japanese communities throughout the region have reached a turning point - as their communities mature, their links with Japan weaken with each new generation.

1999 marks the centenary of emigration from Japan to Peru and Bolivia. Emigration from Japan to Brazil dates back 90 years while emigration to Venezuela, Columbia and the Amazon area began 70 years ago. Various events are being held in these communities to commemorate their history.

These events are intended not merely to

celebrate the founding of overseas Japanese communities; they are significant also in that by cementing the generational bonds within these communities, they hope to secure their continued development.

JICA is investigating how best to establish relationships with the younger generations as their communities evolve. One method is the program JICA runs under which representatives of ethnic Japanese communities are invited to Japan. In FY1998, JICA invited seven second-generation ethnic Japanese from Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, and Peru to Japan under this program.

The program provided the opportunity for lively discussions on topics common to people from all these countries including the problems involved in the passage from



A celebration to mark the 90th anniversary of Japanese emigration was held in Brazil in 1998.

one generation to the next. Japanese language education, and the position of ethnic Japanese communities in the societies of which they form a part.

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 for Japanese-language education is being provided through third-country training of local Japanese language teachers in Latin America. Training of this type was held in FY1998 at Asuncion in Paraguay and was attended by 40 Japanese-language teachers.

Support is also being provided in the form of reward payments to Japanese-language teachers and costs for the purchase of teaching materials, etc.

4. Support for improvements in social welfare and everyday infrastructure

In FY1998, grants were provided for the construction of a home for elderly people with special needs in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as well as for repair work on wooden bridges in Paraguay.

Dividing of settlements into housing lots

JICA is involved in the dividing up of housing lots in Japanese settlements. In FY1998, three zones in a settlement and four zones in an urban district were divided into 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 FY1998, loans totaling 825 million yen were provided to emigrants in Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic.

Studies on emigration

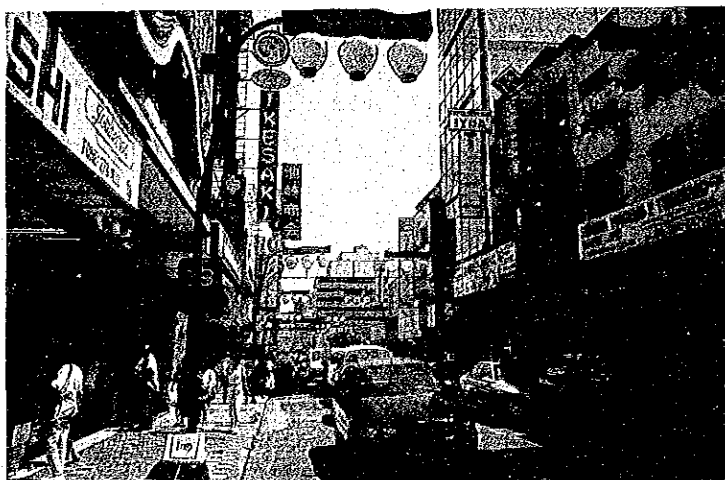
Various studies are performed every year in order to gather basic data likely to prove useful in supporting and giving guidance to Japanese emigrants and people of Japanese descent and in stimulating a better understanding of Japanese overseas communities. In FY1998, economic studies on farms in five Latin American countries, studies on the activities of overseas Japanese organizations, studies on materials relating to immigration possessed by organizations in Japan, and revision of overviews of overseas settlements were performed.

Since FY1993, the Overseas Japanese Association has been cooperating with consultations on everyday matters as part of efforts to assist overseas Japanese working in Japan.

III

Chapter 2

Project Implementation / Support for Japanese Emigrants and Ethnic Japanese



Placards in Japanese on display in Sao Paulo's "Japan Town".