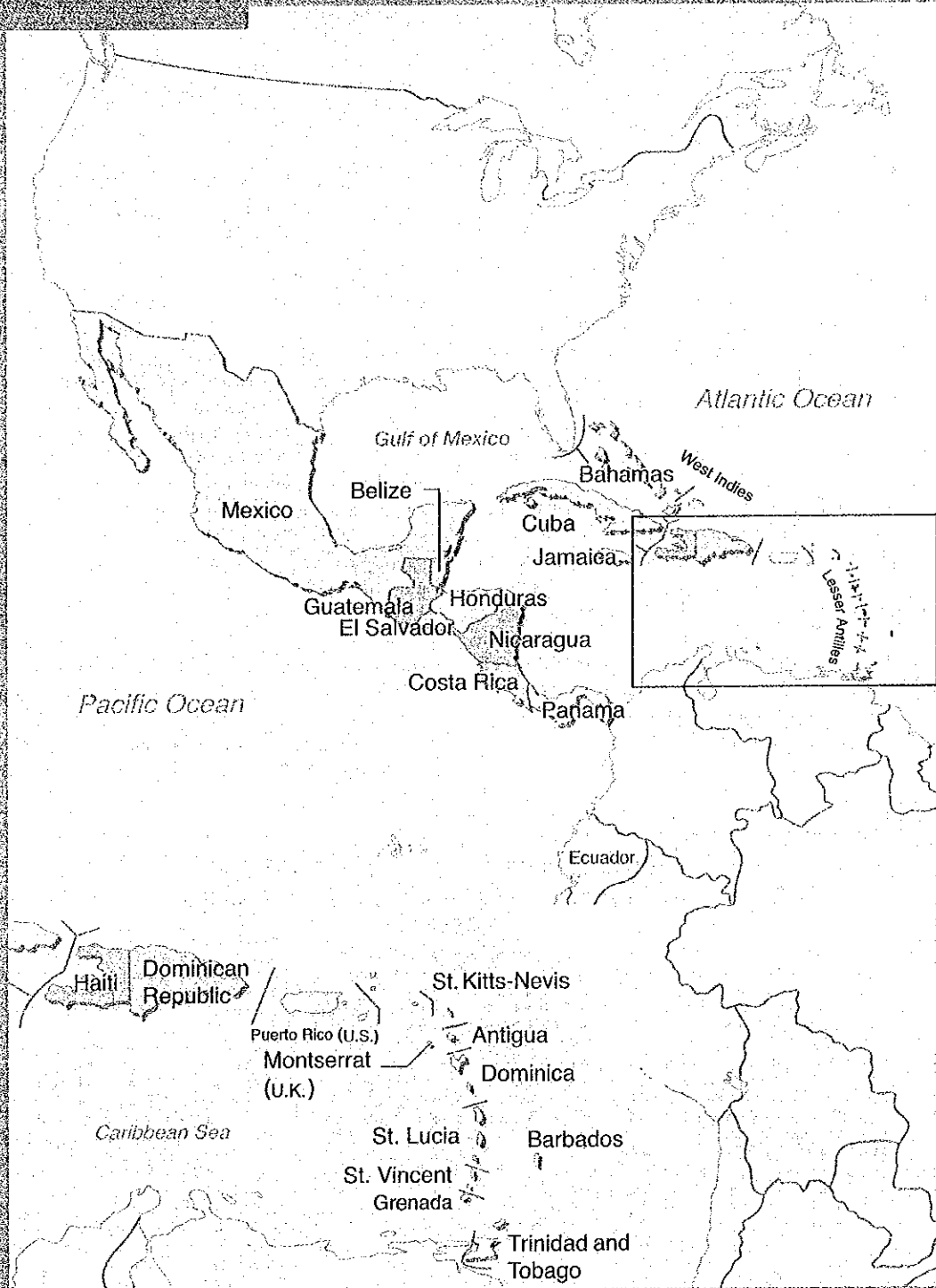


Chapter 7 Central America and the Caribbean



Current State of Development



Restoring forest to ensure water supply to the Panama Canal (Panama).

A Region Consisting Mainly of Small Countries

The Central American and Caribbean region comprises 21 countries, eight in Central America and 13 in the Caribbean. It occupies an area of 2.96 million square kilometers, 2.2% of the world's surface, and is home to 163 million people, or 3% of the world's population. The region has many small countries – eight with land areas of less than 10,000 square kilometers – and nine (or about half the total) have populations of less than one million.

The economies of most of the countries in this region are based on agriculture and are reliant on exports of primary produce underpinned by the region's plentiful natural resources. The main industries in the Caribbean countries are fishing and tourism. With the exception of Mexico and a few other countries, manufacturing industry and other industries remain relatively underdeveloped. Many countries in the region have problems of accumulated debt and are engaged in a process of reconstruction.

Overseas Assistance Necessary

The civil strife that began in the late 1970s and racked Central America for more than a decade played havoc on the territories and economics of the countries involved. Neighboring countries felt repercussions in the form of refugees. A process of transition to civilian government at last began to emerge in the early 1980s, and all the countries of the region, with the sole exception of Cuba, now have democratically elected governments. Furthermore, all the countries of Central America have now achieved peace, following the signing of the Guatemalan peace treaty in December 1996. However, the damage to the social and economic infrastructure of these countries is still being felt today as many countries have inadequate water supply facilities, health and medical care, and basic education. Donor assistance is essential if these countries are to solve these problems, including the problem of accumulated debt.

In fall 1998, Hurricane Mitch struck the Central American and Caribbean region causing havoc on an

Basic Principles of JICA Aid for Central America and the Caribbean

JICA will continue to provide cooperation in the fields of human development and nation-building to Central America and the Caribbean, taking account of the following priority issues and self-help on the part of the recipient countries:

1. Development after civil strife

The civil strife that racked Central America for several decades severely damaged the region's social and economic infrastructure. Sectors particularly affected or in need of support include water supply and drainage, health and medical care, basic education and other areas bearing on people's everyday lives, the development of agriculture needed for the stable supply of food, and economic infrastructure* upgrading in connection with roads, bridges, etc. Establishment of solid democratic

institutions and alleviation of poverty are also important issues in need of response.

2. Post-hurricane development

In October 1998, the Central American and Caribbean region was struck by a hurricane of unprecedented size that caused great damage. The countries that fell victim to this hurricane are now giving priority to improvements in infrastructure and disaster prevention on the basis of plans for recovery and regeneration.

3. Environment

Industrial and economic modernization and development have been accompanied in this region by air and water pollution and the generation of harmful waste products. Problems in processing everyday waste products and sewage have been caused by the concentration of population in

metropolitan districts, while development has brought environmental problems such as the destruction of forests and pollution from mining. Dealing with these problems has become an urgent issue.

4. South-South cooperation*

The following countries in this region have relatively high per capita GDPs and technical capacity and are able to provide their own South-South cooperation*: Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago have provided support for training and expert dispatch aimed at countries in the region. But now that sources of funding are decreasing due to donor nations showing symptoms of aid fatigue, South-South cooperation* in Central America is likely to become an increasingly important issue.

unprecedented scale. Honduras, which was especially hard hit, and the other countries that were in its path are now giving priority to improvements in infrastructure on the basis of plans for recovery and regeneration following the hurricane.

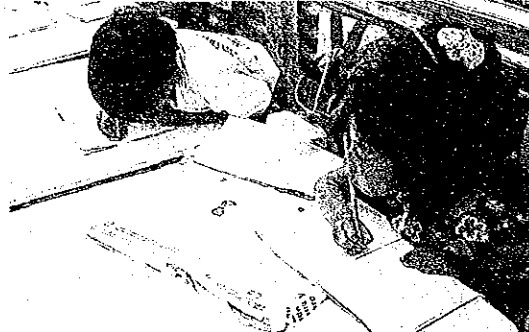
Tackling Priority Issues in JICA Projects

Support for South-South Cooperation

Mexico, the country with the largest land area and population in Central America, has seen a solid improvement in its status within the international community since the conclusion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its entry into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1994. The nation has already begun its own cooperation, albeit on a small scale, with other countries in Central America and the Caribbean and, has incorporated South-South cooperation into its foreign policy.

JICA is therefore supporting cooperation with the countries of this region with the emphasis on Mexico, the largest country, to further the implementation of effective cooperation in the Central American and Caribbean region. Since 1998, JICA has been sending experts on South-South cooperation to Mexico to transmit Japan's expertise and experience and to look into the possibilities for cooperation and assistance. In 1999, JICA also started a new third-country training* program on "reproductive health"* and has been supporting the training of technicians in countries throughout the region.

The priority fields of aid for Mexico as provided for in agreements reached between Japan and Mexico include South-South cooperation in addition to environmental conservation, health care, industrial and regional development, and education in occupational skills. A start was made in 1999 with the "Reproductive Health Prevention of Uterine Cervical Cancer" (project-type technical cooperation).



Cooperating with the dissemination of elementary education among girls from the indigenous population (Guatemala).

Cooperation Stepped up Every Year

The priority areas for aid to El Salvador are stimulation of the production sector, social development, environmental conservation, and support with democratization and economic stabilization. Cooperation is being stepped up annually to support the process of democratization now that peace has come to the country. In 1999, a start was made with the "Project for the Strengthening of Agricultural Technology Development and Transfer in El Salvador" (project-type technical cooperation) and the "Study on Regional Solid Waste Management for the San Salvador Metropolitan Area in the Republic of El Salvador" (development study), while cooperation in the form of individual expert dispatch was provided to the Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) with a view to encouraging new developments within the region.

Active Cooperation with Recovery in Disaster Areas

Nicaragua has the lowest per capita income in Central America and a large proportion of its population living in poverty. The Japanese and Nicaraguan governments have agreed that the priority areas for aid should be social development and poverty measures, improvements in social and economic infrastructure, environmental conservation, and support for democratization and economic stabilization. This is in addition to recovery and rebuilding of infrastructure and disaster prevention in areas affected by hurricane

damage. Disaster recovery was the main issue tackled in 1999. As well as implementing grant aid in the form of projects such as the "Project for Reconstruction of Bridges over Main Roads," individual experts were sent to study new prospective sites for damaged waste processing plants.

Support for Training of Local Education Administrators

In Guatemala, the government signed a peace treaty with left-wing guerrillas in December 1996, marking the end of civil strife in that country. In 1997, Japan dispatched an economic cooperation mission that decided that the priority areas for aid would be the upgrading of social and economic infrastructure (education, medical care, etc.) and modernization of legal institutions relating to the government and the judiciary. In the field of education, the dissemination of elementary education among girls from the indigenous population forms part of the Japan-U.S. Common Agenda*. JICA is assisting with training of administrators in the field of local education through dispatch of experts, special country-specific training, and dispatch of JOCVs. In the field of medical care, experts have been sent to expand cooperation with measures to prevent infectious diseases.



Organic farming methods being introduced by experts in the Dominican Republic.

Spreading the Results of Projects to Neighboring Countries

Costa Rica has high educational levels and a well-organized social security system. It is one of the Central American countries with the best ensconced democratic institutions. An important example of JICA's cooperation with Costa Rica was the "Technical Instructor and Personnel Training Center for Industrial Development of Central America Project" (project-type

Frontline

Improvement of Public Health Conditions Through Community Participation in a Marginal Rural Area of the State of Guanajuato

Mexico

Improvements in regional public health through activities of local people

◆ Women and the elderly left behind

The state of Guanajuato is found in the center of Mexico. It is a relatively affluent state with many relics of the colonial age and is a popular destination for tourists. However, in the northeastern part of the state, which has a large indigenous population, almost all the men have left to work in the United States, leaving many villages where the remaining women and elderly people eke out a meager living by cultivating corn and beans.

The project involving "Improvement of Public Health Conditions Through Community Participation in a Marginal Rural Area of the State of Guanajuato" was begun in February 1998 by Mexico's leading NGO, Mexfam (Mexico Family Planning Foundation). This is the first community empowerment project* to be implemented in Mexico. As suggested by the name, the aim is to improve local public health while encouraging the local community to act on its own initiative. The area covered by the project comprises seven municipalities centering on San Luis de la Paz, an area that includes many small villages with populations of less than 100.

Community Empowerment Project

◆ Construction of a health clinic

This project involves the dissemination of information on family planning, maternal and child health care, and sexually transmitted diseases and the provision of health diagnosis services. The main roles are played by volunteers selected regionally from local communities. A health clinic has been built in the town of San Luis de la Paz. With the volunteers acting as intermediaries, local people who have previously been unable to receive prompt and appropriate treatment owing to inadequate transport facilities are now able to receive treatment at low cost.

However, there are difficulties in disseminating family planning in areas where large families are common and where inaccessibility precludes women from receiving medical examinations prior to childbirth. Various methods are therefore being devised, such as the frequent presentation of puppet shows, movie showings, and traveling health examinations.

While JICA's support for this project is due to end in January 2001, Mexfam plans to continue to develop these activities. We can therefore expect to see a whole range of related activities instigated by the local people for themselves.

(JICA Mexico Office)

technical cooperation), which was completed in 1997. To ensure that the results of this project spread to neighboring countries, third-country training aimed at countries in the region has been held since 1997 under the title of "Improving Productivity".

Aiming at Recovery from Hurricane Damage

After Nicaragua and Haiti, Honduras is one of the least developed countries in the region with extensive development needs. Japan is providing aid in many forms. The priority areas for Japanese aid are upgrading of infrastructure, improving basic living standards, encouraging key industries such as agriculture and fishing, and human resources development. Owing to the extensive damage caused by the hurricane that struck in 1998, a large number of experts was sent in 1999 to assist with recovery and restoration. These experts have been offering advice to the Ministry of Public Works and applying their specialized knowledge to matters of



The state governor speaking at a ceremony to mark the 15th anniversary of the Engineering and Industrial Development Center (CIDEF) in Queretaro State (Mexico).

infrastructure such as response to floods and landslides and bridge construction. A start was also made with "Reproductive Health in Health District No. 7" (project-type technical cooperation).

Front Line

Project for Control of Chagas' Disease Vectors

Guatemala

Long-term project aimed at eradicating infectious disease

◆ Aiming at eradication by 2010

Chagas' disease is transmitted by the blood-sucking cone-nosed bug and is prevalent throughout Latin America. After malaria, this is the most dangerous tropical disease in the region. Around 1.6 million of Guatemala's population of 10 million face the danger of infection.

Chagas' disease is associated with the poor as the cone-nosed bug is found only in the thatched roofs and walls of mud huts in semi-rural areas. When the insect bites a person, parasites enter the body infecting the blood and the immune system. The disease becomes chronic unless treated early. Once the disease has become chronic, there is no known cure and the patient faces eventual death.

Fortunately, Chagas' disease is eradicable: the World Health Organization (WHO) is aiming to stamp it out by 2010 and there are several countries where it has already disappeared.

◆ A system involving local communities

Using the experience gained through the earlier "Project for Research on Measures to Combat Tropical Disease," the "Project for Control of Chagas' Disease Vectors" is now under way involving dispatch of individual experts and JOCVs and the supply of specialised medical equipment.

Four JOCVs have been sent to four districts such as Santa Rosa with high incidences of Chagas' infection. The aim of the project is to reduce Chagas' infection rates through cooperation with JICA experts as well as with the Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health, universities, international organizations, and local NGOs.

Expert dispatch, JOCV dispatch



Spraying a house with insecticide.

The aims of the project begin with the spraying of insecticide on infested houses and include community education concerning Chagas' disease, improvements in housing to prevent infiltration of cone-nosed bugs, and construction of a supervisory system with community participation to prevent reinfestation of the bugs.

Since international cooperation has an essential role to play in combating diseases of this kind, tie-ups are occurring with neighboring countries, other aid organizations, and NGOs.

(JICA/JOCV Guatemala Office)

Support Centering on the Panama Canal

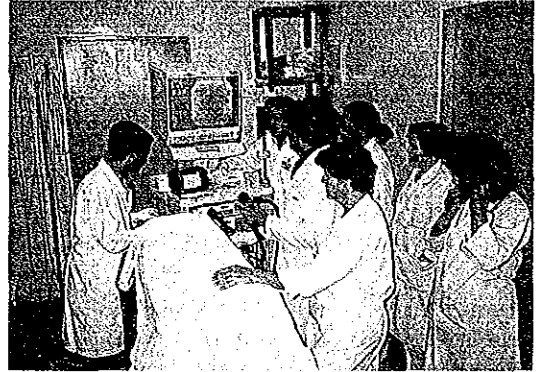
1999 was a momentous year for Panama, with a change in regime and the return of the Panama Canal from the United States. In the course of policy discussions with the new regime, it was confirmed that the emphasis of cooperation would be placed on rectification of regional and wealth disparities, sustainable economic development, environmental conservation, and support for the canal and its environs. Other important issues in Panama include environmental conservation through recovery of forestry resources and preservation of the water sources of the canal. JICA has been involved in these sectors since 1994 through the "Forest Conservation Technical Development Project" (project-type technical cooperation). Since 1998 JICA has been working on the "Cattle Productivity Improvement Project in the Republic of Panama" (project-type technical cooperation), which aims to raise the incomes of small-scale farmers. In 1999 JICA provided cooperation aimed at encouraging sustainable economic growth in relation to the Panama Canal through support with "Port Administration and Control" and the "Investment Stimulation Plan" (dispatch of individual experts).

Support for Shared Development Issues on a Local Basis

The countries of the Caribbean are mostly small in size and population; many have gained their independence in relatively recent years. Japan does not have a strong record of cooperation in these countries because of their relatively high per capita income and the small scale of their economies. Cooperation with the



A counterpart cheerfully inspects healthily growing seedlings (Panama).



The "Project for the Early Detection of Gastric Cancer in the Republic of Costa Rica" is aimed at creating a system of early detection and treatment.

Caribbean region, with its large number of small nations, needs to involve support on a regional basis in connection with common development issues, employing the resources of local agencies such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM). Cooperation has so far consisted of specially instituted regional training (tourism development training, etc.) in Japan. Cooperation needs shared by the whole region are being examined in the "Regional Development Project" (dispatch of individual experts) with a view to opening up new avenues of cooperation.

Relations between Japan and Jamaica, the central nation in the Caribbean region, have been growing closer over the years. Cooperation is currently occurring in both the loan aid and technical cooperation spheres. 1998 saw the start of the "Project for Strengthening Health Care in the Southern Region," aimed at strengthening local health care administration and services.

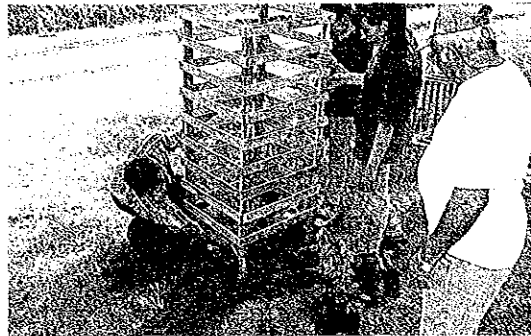
The Dominican Republic is home to many immigrants from Japan and ethnic Japanese. With these people's interests in mind, extensive cooperation is being provided especially in the fields of agriculture, education, and health and medical care. It was confirmed at policy discussions held in April 1999 that the priority issues to be dealt with would be improvements in roads, bridges and other examples of infrastructure, health and medical care, promotion of agriculture, livestock farming and fisheries, education, and environmental conservation. A start was made in 1999 with the "Medical Education and Training Project" (project-type technical cooperation), aimed at creating a system for training doctors with advanced skills who are able to play leading roles in their country's medical institutions.

Chapter 8

South America



Current State of Development



Tree planting forms part of a civic landscape improvement project proposed by JOCVs (Paraguay).

A Region with Long-standing Japanese Immigration

Comprising twelve countries, South America covers an area of 17.22 million square kilometers, or around 13% of the world's surface. It has a population of 310 million, or around 6% of the world's population. Most countries in the region are of large or medium size. The main features of the region include its vast land mass and its wealth of natural and human resources.

Japanese emigration to South America has a long history. Many people of Japanese descent, both permanent and temporary residents, live in Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

Ever since diplomatic relations were first established with Peru in 1873, Japan has maintained close links with South America. There has been a constant exchange of prominent people, and many Japanese companies have extended their business activities into the region.

Overcoming Economic Difficulties

During the 1960s and 1970s, many countries in

South America attempted to modernize by borrowing funds from developed countries and private financial institutions. However, as the 1980s got under way, these countries saw a deterioration in their international balance of payments and they found it difficult to repay their loans because of the drop in the prices of primary products and the hiking of international interest rates. The economies of many South American companies thus faced crisis.

This led to the creation in 1993 of a debt reduction agreement based on a new debt strategy* known as the Brady Plan in almost all debtor countries. With the support of the World Bank and the IMF, structural reforms have been implemented involving reduction in the size of government, privatization of state enterprises, and liberalization of economic relations with other countries. As a result, the South American economy returned to the path to recovery during the 1990s, and South America has now become one of the main centers of world growth.

Moves toward economic integration have been picking up since the early 1990s. The main institution underpinning this development is the Mercado Comun del Sur (Mercosur).

Basic Principles of JICA Aid for South America

South America contains Argentina and Brazil, where development is well advanced and which are positioned among medium- or high-level countries in the DAC (Development Assistance Committee*) rating. In contrast, it also contains Bolivia and Paraguay where social indices are still low.

Most of these countries have seen a serious deterioration in their natural environments in recent years. Cooperation on environmental conservation such as the conservation of the Amazonian rain forest, and measures to combat air and water pollution in the major cities are important aid fields shared by countries throughout South America. In every country there are

wide imbalances of income and wealth between different regions, and support for the poorer classes and local development are important issues. In addition, aid for countries such as Bolivia where development is slow needs to focus on priority issues including agricultural development, development of infrastructure*, and improvements in health and medical care.

This region has large numbers of Japanese immigrants and citizens with Japanese ancestry. Efforts are being directed toward the acceptance of training participants from this community as well as improvements in economic and social

infrastructure, and the use of ethnic Japanese researchers and engineers in South-South cooperation*.

South-South cooperation is also being actively pursued following the conclusion of a partnership program agreement with Chile and Brazil. This will serve as a basis for cooperation with Latin America and the Portuguese-speaking nations of Africa.

In recent years there has been a conspicuous move toward regional economic unification, as evident in Mercosur. JICA intends to plan and provide cooperation linked to support for this development.

Industrial Development and Serious Internal Disparities

South America consists of countries with flourishing primary industries underpinned by rich natural resources and countries (such as Brazil and Argentina) where industrialization is already well advanced. Many are classified by the World Bank as middle-income countries. However, there are several where social infrastructure is still inadequately developed owing to long years of political and economic turmoil. But even in the middle-income countries, there are major problems of poverty arising out of income disparities within the individual countries, and many are also affected by the drugs trade and environmental pollution. Thus, despite improvements in economic conditions in recent years, there are still many countries that stand in need of aid for economic and social development.

New Problems Posed by Environmental Deterioration and Narcotics Trade

South America is a treasure trove of ecosystems, notably the Amazon tropical rain forest. Conservation of these ecosystems is a matter of worldwide interest. At the same time, air quality in the big cities is steadily deteriorating.

The trade in narcotics is a problem of global proportions. The illegal cultivation of narcotics in countries such as Colombia, Peru and Bolivia derives from the poverty of farming villages and the mountainous districts as well as income disparities. Drug-related crime, terrorism, and the development of a criminal economy are factors that threaten political, economic and social stability throughout the region.

II

Front Line

Plan for Rural Electrification Implementation by Renewable Energy in the Republic of Bolivia

Bolivia

Development study

The joy of having electric light in the house for the first time

◆ Solving energy problems

Energy is an issue that every developing country must face in the process of development. Power stations and other aspects of the infrastructure cannot be upgraded fast enough to deal with the ever increasing demand for energy. Other related problems also arise, such as inadequate funds to pay for petroleum imports, destruction of the environment, and the generation of greenhouse gases. This mix of problems is both complex and serious.

In connection with the electrification of rural villages, considerable hopes are being pinned on renewable energy as a way of resolving these problems. Small generating facilities making use of renewable energy generated by sunlight, wind and water are set up next to a housing area to provide additional electric power.

We are currently working on a development study aimed at providing electricity to rural villages in Bolivia to find out how much use can be made from these unconventional forms of energy.

◆ Electrical devices powered by sunlight

Our current activities involve collecting data on solar power units, but we have also begun to assemble data on the generation of electric power by means of wind and water.

The brand new feature of this development study is the distribution to local people taking part in the experiment of 270 pilot solar power units in order to see how effective the equipment is likely to be.

But we face problems. The plant maintenance costs are beyond the means of the local people. It costs just under ¥20,000 to install a unit, after which the user has to pay a monthly fee of around ¥540 to the management company. These are considerable sums for people whose income levels



A pilot solar power unit attached to a private house.

are so low that they are unable to pay administrative costs of ¥18 per day. Some people have even sold the batteries and the solar-power panels, and there is cause for concern about possible theft.

Despite these problems, it means a lot to the local people to see their houses lit up by electric lights for the very first time. Until now, they have been isolated from news and information emanating from the capital, and the fact that they can now listen to the radio in their own homes is a sign of real progress.

Seeing villagers who have traveled ten kilometers or more to attend an explanatory meeting makes us forget the trials and tribulations involved in executing this development study, and we feel more motivated than ever to be of whatever use we can to the community.

(JICA Bolivia Office)

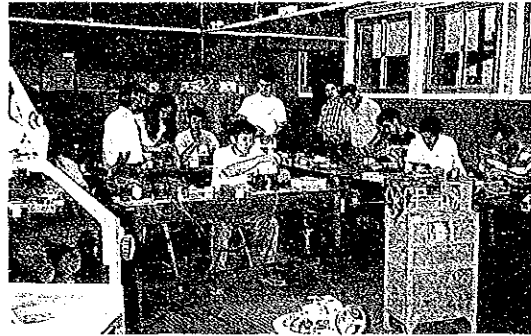
Tackling Priority Issues in JICA Projects

Active Cooperation with Environmental Conservation

Japan is providing project-type technical cooperation relating to the conservation of the Amazon tropical rain forest, a subject that is currently provoking international interest. We are also providing project-type technical cooperation in connection with air and water pollution, waste disposal, and other problems in major cities such as São Paulo in Brazil and Santiago in Chile. The problems of mining pollution, a by-product of mining the rich mineral resources of the region, are also being addressed.

Eradicating Poverty and Rectifying Regional Disparities

People living in the mountainous districts of the Andes covering northeastern Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia exist in conditions of extreme poverty. The flow



Instruction at the Center for the Promotion of Occupational Training (Paraguay).

of population from these districts into the big cities and the cultivation of plants used to produce narcotics have emerged as serious social problems. Japan is providing Bolivia with grant aid and project-type technical cooperation with the emphasis on health and medical care, and is providing project-type technical cooperation with maternal and child health in northeastern Brazil. Attention is also being paid to support for the poor people who stream into the urban areas. In this connection, we are working on a community empowerment project focusing on the occupational training of women.

South America, and in particular Brazil and Argentina, have rich farming land that makes them granaries for the world. Japan previously provided cooperation aimed at increasing agricultural production in this region, but the focus has shifted in recent years to the promotion of environment-friendly agriculture and the eradication of poverty through cooperation aimed at small-scale farmers. We are also actively cooperating with Paraguay, which is lagging behind the other countries of Mercosur, in increasing its agricultural competitiveness.

Strengthening the International Competitiveness of Industrial Products

A feature of South America is the presence of many countries, such as Brazil and Argentina, which have already undergone the process of industrialisation earlier in their history. However, the trend over recent years toward economic liberalization and regional economic integration has meant that consolidation of international competitiveness in connection with industrial products has become an important issue. Principally through the dispatch of individual experts, Japan is cooperating with several countries (including Brazil, Chile and Colombia) on quality control and enhancing productivity. In Argentina, we are working on project-type technical cooperation relating to energy-saving in industrial fields.



A seminar on the "humanization" of childbirth as part of the "Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health Project" currently under way in Northeastern Brazil.

Increasingly Detailed Support for South-South Cooperation

Chile, Brazil and Argentina, all countries with relatively developed economies, are implementing their own South-South cooperation in South America. Japan, for its part, is providing support for third-country training* under which these countries invite participants from neighboring countries to take part in training courses. Matters have been taken further in recent years: Chile and Brazil have now concluded a partnership program agreement with Japan as equal partners in cooperating with Central America and the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa.

Support for Japanese Ethnic Communities and Use of Ethnic Japanese Experts

Many people of Japanese ancestry, both first-generation immigrants and those whose families have been in South America for two or more generations, live in Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia. Their activities have contributed significantly to the development of their adopted countries and to shaping the image of Japan held by their compatriots.

When Japan cooperates with these countries, it takes account of how its activities will benefit the ethnic Japanese community. Japan also makes use of talented individuals from this community to serve as third-country experts and in other capacities within Japanese technical cooperation.

Front Line

Study on the Regional Environmental Improvement Plan for the Basin of Lake Fuquene in the Republic of Colombia

Colombia

Turning a swamp back into a lake in three steps

◆ Lake covered by aquatic vegetation

Driving due north from the Colombian capital of Bogota, we reach Lake Fuquene, situated on the border with Boyaca Province.

Cows and horses are peacefully grazing on the pasture surrounding the lake. Such a pastoral scene makes it seem scarcely possible that we are in a country infamous for its lawlessness.

The lake in this idyllic environment has been subject to soil erosion for many years. Soil settlement in the lake has caused the lake bed to rise and water levels to decrease. The density of the aquatic vegetation is causing concern that in the future the lake may no longer be usable as source of water for the region.

The JICA study team visited the site to see how this process could be arrested and how the environment might be improved. We were surprised first of all to see how the lake surface had become covered with a thick layer of *erodia* - an aquatic plant. This was not so much a lake as a swamp. With every 200 or 300 meters which the boat carrying the study team advanced, we removed the vegetation clinging to the boat and studied it. The conditions remained the same when we entered a tributary that forked off from the lake. Observing the lake and its environs from the air, it was immediately clear how abnormal this proliferation of aquatic plants was.

◆ Cutting back the vegetation, setting fish among the plants, dredging the lake

After several visits to the lake, we came up with three measures for dealing with the problem. First, we would employ machines to cut back the vegetation at regular intervals. Second, we would release a type of carp that would eat the vegetation. And finally, we would dredge the sluice area attached to the lake entrance.

Development study



Cutting back the aquatic weeds covering the lake surface.

After being cut back and then dried, the vegetation could be sold to local flower cultivators as compost. To ensure that the fish did not disturb the ecosystem, only neutered types were released. These methods were decided in each case after practical tests by the study team.

It was proposed that work on cutting down the vegetation and dredging should be undertaken regularly by the Cundinamarca Municipal Corporation, which was the counterpart* organization for this study, using the corporation's budget.

The plan was prepared with complete confidence by the study team, who felt the Colombians would effectively carry out the methods chosen to improve the environment.

(JICA Colombia Office)

Chapter 9 Africa



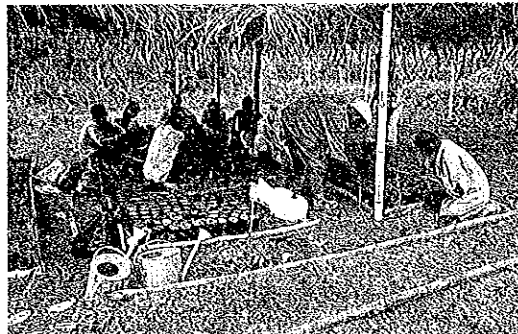
Current State of Development

Socioeconomic Development Facing Extensive Difficulties

Africa refers here to sub-Saharan Africa with the exception of Sudan. This is a vast area stretching over 21.78 million square kilometers with a varied climate occupied mostly by arid desert zones and humid tropical rain forest.

Although most African countries gained their independence during the 1960s, many, under the influence of agricultural management during the colonial period, have inherited a monocultural structure with their economic foundations resting on specific primary products. The effects of drought and other changes in the natural environment and of fluctuations in international markets are therefore liable to have immediate repercussions on the economic foundations of the state and result in fragile economic structures.

Restricted access to education means that national development has had to go ahead with limitations on the human resources required for nation-building. Since independence, African countries have thus had to face countless difficulties on the path to socioeconomic development.



The "Integrated Development of African-Style Valley Fields with Participation of Farmers" is likely to serve as a model for agriculture and environmental regeneration in West Africa (Ghana).

A Region with Two-thirds of the World's LLDCs

During the 1960s, the decade when many African countries gained their independence, these countries benefited from an international economic environment characterized by stability in the international prices of primary products for export. This meant that they were able to achieve steady growth, assisted by aid received from industrialized countries. However, with the exception of a few countries, their economic growth has become sluggish since the 1970s owing to the fall in the prices of primary products; the oil crises; the failure of economic management; unstable political foundations; drought, flooding and other severe meteorological disasters; regional conflict, and civil war.

During the 1970s, many countries had to take out large loans in order to maintain levels of income and investment. But since the 1980s, their GNPs have in real terms shown negative growth and, by the end of the 1990s, external debt had grown to enormous proportions. The consequence of this was that financial resources that would normally have been directed toward development and public services had to be used

Basic Principles of JICA Aid for Africa

Aid from Europe and the United States has failed to grow significantly since the end of the Cold War; African countries have increasingly been looking to Japan for assistance. In light of the importance of this region in terms of international politics, Japan organized the 1st Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993 and the second TICAD in 1998. The aim of these conferences was to stress the importance of African development to the international community and to enhance understanding and support for the region. On the basis of the guidelines for Japanese aid to Africa

presented at these conferences, JICA determined that the ultimate goal of African development should be the eradication of poverty, and we are now striving to make improvements in personnel training and the capacity to formulate and implement policy in connection with the following fields:

- (1) Support in fields of social development centering on education, health and medical care, and water supply.
- (2) Support for agricultural development with consideration given to the food security of the poorer sectors of society.
- (3) Support for development and strengthening of market economy

- institutions that contribute to development of the private sector.
- (4) Support for democratization as the basis of development, prevention of conflict, and post-conflict recovery.
- (5) Support contributing to better debt management capacity.

Provision of cooperation in these areas will involve a sectoral program approach based on intra-regional cooperation centering on South-South cooperation* and regional bases, making use of the development experience of Asia and collaboration with donors* in line with conditions in specific countries.



Women constructing water supply facilities as part of the "Plan for Expansion of the Magalies Water Supply Zone."

to pay off debt, resulting in a shortage of the funds required for normal social services.

The consequence of this decline in economic growth and the burden of heavy debt is that 32 of the world's 48 LLDCs* are concentrated in Africa, and about two-fifths of the population belongs to the class of the absolute poor, having to live on less than US\$1 a day.

Support for Africa in an Atmosphere of Change

The countries of Africa are currently at a major political and economic turning point.

In the political arena, many countries adopted a system of single-party dictatorship or military rule under powerful leaders in order to maintain their national unity following independence. But, following the disappearance of the Cold War structures resulting from the collapse of the Soviet Union and under the influence of demands made by donor nations, African countries are gradually becoming more pluralistic and are moving toward multi-party systems. Nigeria had been subject to military rule for many years, but in 1999 the military regime gave way to the democratically elected civilian president, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, while in South Africa President Mandela was succeeded by the democratically elected president, Mr. Thabo Mbeki.

In the economic arena, many countries have collapsed economically and financially. Since the 1980s, efforts have been made under the guidance of the World Bank and the IMF to change over to economic policies involving a series of structural

adjustments*. The aims here are to open up the economy, improve government finances, and bring about improvements in the international balance of payments by moving away from managed economic policies controlled by the public sector and stimulating the economy through investment and market activities. As a consequence, there are several countries, such as Uganda, Ghana and Burkina Faso, where efforts toward economic reform have induced stable economic growth and have brought international recognition. However, in many countries, administrative, fiscal and governmental reforms involving sudden economic liberalization and privatization are having a serious effect on the poor by lowering the standard of social services and causing unemployment. Since the 1990s, there has been a growing demand for development carried out in parallel with reform in the overall economic structure that takes account of the social repercussions of reform and that emphasizes benefits to the poor.

Organizations engaged in development activities are increasingly reviewing development from a total perspective, including not only the public sector but also the people who have hitherto generally been the recipients of social services, including NGOs and the private sector. A sector program approach is now being adopted in order to avoid the situation in which various donors work on their own separate projects using the limited resources possessed by the developing country in question. This approach involves the formulation of specific sectoral issues, development strategies, and budget allocation plans in collaboration with the developing country, followed by cooperation implemented in accordance with a plan for the sector as a whole. Formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs (PRSP) is also becoming increasingly common. A PRSP is a plan for economic and social development that refers comprehensively to priority development issues in a particular country with the emphasis on poverty reduction. Such plans are drawn up with participation of a wide range of related individuals and organizations including donors, NGOs, the general public, and the private sector. The approach to development in Africa has thus reached a major turning point in recent years in line with political and economic reform.

Tackling Priority Issues in JICA Projects

Current State of Aid

In fiscal 1999 JICA provided cooperation to 43 countries in Africa, a figure representing all the countries in the region with the exceptions of Somalia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia. Cooperation with African countries accounted for around 14% of the total value of JICA's technical cooperation. Africa occupies a particularly important place in the JOCV dispatch program: around one in four JOCVs was sent to Africa in fiscal 1999.

Building on the TICAD II "Tokyo Action Plan"

The 2nd Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II) was held in Tokyo under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations and the Japanese government in October 1998. Attended by representatives of 40 countries, 40 international agencies, and 22 NGOs, it saw the adoption of the "Tokyo Action Plan," which aims to set the basic agenda for future cooperation in Africa. On the basis of this action plan and in the awareness that the ultimate aim of



Primary health care workers wearing Japan's ODA symbol (Zambia).



A JOCV carrying out an oral survey at a seminar held to understand the living conditions of the local community (Senegal).

African development is eradication of poverty, JICA is contributing actively to capacity building* in Africa in connection with the priority issues summarized below.

Main approaches

1. Support with human resources development

When carrying out human resources development in Africa, raising the abilities of administrative organizations and the private sector play an even more important role than in other developing countries. Because of this, the training of people who are able to administer organizations and systems is indispensable. JICA believes the most important issues for us to tackle in Africa are human resources development and related institutional development, and we are engaged in long-term cooperation involving various forms of technical cooperation.

2. Promotion of inter-regional cooperation

Since the size of the economy and the capacity to administer aid differs from country to country, it is not effective to provide aid in exactly the same way to all countries. Furthermore, there are many common issues facing the same region and issues that might best be tackled jointly in order to achieve optimum results.

For this reason, JICA believes that one important approach to providing aid effectively and efficiently is to promote inter-regional cooperation to support neighboring countries by using the abilities of related organizations in partner countries.

In line with this approach, in East Africa JICA is promoting the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD), which is carrying out research, engaging in human resources development, and generating information for the benefit of African society from its base in Kenya at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Engineering. In West Africa, we are providing inter-regional cooperation in the fields of occupational training and water supply in

Senegal, while in Southern Africa we are actively supporting inter-regional cooperation in the field of livestock health in Zambia.

With a view to promoting measures to combat international parasites in Africa, we are studying how to create frameworks for inter-regional cooperation in Kenya and Ghana.

3. Aid cooperation and sectoral approaches

Various problems occur in extending aid to developing countries: the overlapping of cooperation between donors and a chaotic profusion of projects that exceed the capacity of the recipient country to absorb them. As a result, attempts are increasingly being made in Africa to provide aid and cooperation in line with a sectoral program approach.

JICA is striving to ensure that Japan's way of thinking is being incorporated into this approach to aid and cooperation. We are also actively responding through the allocation of personnel to ensure that recent developments in aid and cooperation are taken account of in Japan's aid policy.

4. Promoting cooperation between Asia and Africa

Cooperation between Asia and Africa enshrines a new approach to aid that emerged from TICAD involving the sharing of development experience gained in Asia with Africa. JICA is working hard to promote this approach.

JICA has until now provided training in Asia to supplement the technical training provided in Japan in such forms as joint dispatch of experts (police cooperation with South Africa provided by Japan and Singapore) and training courses for Africa held in Asia (Indonesia, etc.). We intend to strengthen cooperative relations between the two regions in the future.

Important topics

1. Social development

Tuition in scientific subjects and mathematics forms the core of Japanese educational cooperation. Following on from the package cooperation* combining project-

Front Line

Comprehensive Study on the Ecology of Lake Malawi

Malawi

Throwing light on the ecology of Lake Malawi

◆ The world's widest variety of fish species

Lake Malawi in East Africa borders on Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique. It is one of the world's oldest lakes, with a history stretching back millions of years.

The lake is home to almost 500 different species of fish, a number virtually without parallel in any other lake anywhere in the world. Many of these species are highly unusual and live only in this lake. These fish constitute an important source of protein for the people of the area and are the source of livelihood for many people living in villages on the shores of the lake.

However, an increase in catches that is accompanying population growth and the deterioration in the immediate environment are calling into question the future of these precious natural resources.

It's necessary to look at the lake's ecosystem to discover ways to protect the fish in this lake while at the same time making sustainable use of them into the future. But Malawi at present has no experts capable of conducting advanced studies on the ecosystem of the lake, and there are no facilities where such research can be conducted.

◆ A comprehensive system for research on Lake Malawi

In May 1998, with cooperation from JICA, Chancellor College at the University of Malawi began its "Comprehensive Study on the Ecology of Lake Malawi" (research cooperation*). The aims of this study are to examine the ecosystem of Lake Malawi from a variety of perspectives, including the effect of human activities and other factors, and to establish a research division capable of accumulating new knowledge on how the lake is changing.

Research cooperation



Lake Malawi has the world's widest variety of fish species

In this project, researchers from Malawi and Japan are engaged in joint research from an equal standpoint in such fields as ecology, environmental sociology, and fish genealogy aimed at deepening knowledge of the lake's ecosystem.

After two years of trial and error, the facilities have now been put in place. Research activities are gradually getting on track with attempts to tackle new topics and the introduction of new tests.

More and more young Malawian researchers are emerging to undertake research on Lake Malawi. They will be publishing the results of their studies in the near future. We hope that this research will prove useful for protecting the lake's environment and resources, and that it will contribute also to improving the lives of the Malawian people.

(JICA Malawi Office)



Local government development of groundwater (Ethiopia).

type technical cooperation, group dispatch of JOCVs, and upgrading of facilities and equipment by means of grant aid in Kenya, JICA has now made a start with support for science and mathematics education in Ghana through a combination of a project involving training and retraining of elementary and secondary school teachers with group training in Japan. In South Africa too, dispatch of teams of experts is being combined with training in Japan with a view to strengthening the system for the retraining of teaching staff. Grant aid

is also being used to construct buildings for elementary and secondary schools.

In the field of health and medical care, cooperation is being provided in Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia with the emphasis on strengthening primary health care* (PHC). In order to raise the quality of health services and medical care, JICA is also training medical practitioners and providing cooperation with research on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases that constitute major problems in Africa. Cooperation of this type is under way in Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

In the field of water supply, we are attempting to expand further the regional water supply projects we have been actively involved in since the 1st Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I) and to raise the maintenance and administration capacity of water supply facilities. In this connection we are implementing the "Groundwater Development and Water Supply Project" in Ethiopia. This project is aimed not only at engineers but also at the community organizations of water administration unions. In Senegal, we have been educating those concerned by holding an international workshop aimed at West African countries intended to stress the importance of maintaining and administering water supply facilities and of promoting health education through the construction of wells.

Front Line

Workshop on obtaining safe water supply in West Africa and inter-regional cooperation

Senegal

Obtaining safe water

◆ **The serious business of obtaining water**

Japan has been cooperating for more than twenty years with the development of safe water in West Africa, and we have made a major contribution thereby to improving living standards among local communities. Development of safe water was considered to be a priority field for Japanese aid in this region at TICAD II, held in Tokyo in October 1998.

A workshop was held in Senegal in March 2000 to formulate the details of a development strategy and a cooperation project aimed at obtaining the safe water needed in the future. The aim of the workshop was to share the experience gained by different countries in a wide range of areas: the formulation of plans for obtaining safe water, maintenance and administration of water supply facilities following their installation, and assisting women and children to play an active role in society once they have been released from the labors of water-gathering. Taking part in the workshop were the directors of the water supply offices of 15 French- and Portuguese-speaking African nations along with representatives of international agencies, bilateral aid* agencies, and NGOs.

◆ **Sharing approaches at the workshop**

Each session of the workshop featured a lively debate, and the following five conclusions were eventually reached:

Promotion of efficient aid

- (1) A regional center for Francophone West African countries should be established to train personnel (administrators, engineers, health instructors, water administration union officials, etc.) to engage in water supply operations.
- (2) Transparency and democracy need to be strictly adhered to when executing projects aimed at safe water supply.
- (3) Cooperation with NGOs needs to be systematically strengthened in order to raise community awareness, to organize communities, and to provide education in connection with health matters in the vicinity of wells.
- (4) Efforts must be continued in each country aimed at realizing the targets of the action plan in the form of follow-up to TICAD II.
- (5) Support needs to be provided to enable communities, local bodies, governments, and other organizations to overcome difficulties, to satisfy demand for safe drinking water, and thereby to ensure the best possible future for Africa's women and children.

These results of these discussions were published successfully in the form of the "Dakar Water Declaration 2000." We intend to promote the exchange of information in the future in line with the results of this workshop.

(JICA Senegal Office)

In African homes, women play the major role in agricultural production, housework and child-rearing yet they have relatively little opportunity to benefit from education and other social services, placing them in a socially disadvantaged position. When providing cooperation, JICA therefore tries to ensure that the benefits are felt equally by women as well as men. With participation at the initial stages by the local communities who are the beneficiaries of our activities, we are striving to introduce community-participatory development methods in order to improve our operations and encourage the idea of ownership.

2. Agricultural development

Most of the African population is involved in agriculture, and most people continue to produce food for their own self-sufficiency. It is important therefore to contribute to the alleviation of poverty in rural districts by improving conditions of food security through raising the productivity of small-scale farmers

and by ensuring sources of cash income through the introduction of cash crops.

JICA is thus encouraging the supply of agricultural production materials by means of grant aid in African countries and is providing technical cooperation aimed at promoting irrigation cultivation among small-scale farmers in countries including Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, and Kenya.

3. Development of the private sector

As well as training personnel who can contribute to development of the private sector by improving and strengthening the market economy system, encouraging trade investment, and fostering small and medium companies, JICA is also providing support primarily through the acceptance of training participants (country-specific and special regional courses), the dispatch of experts (Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, etc.), and development studies (South Africa).

Front Line

Project for Improvement of the Maternal and Child Health In-Service Training System and Program in Ghana

Ghana

Improving the system of training of health workers and medical practitioners

◆ Training personnel in the field of health and medical care

In order to maintain and raise the quality of health and medical services, re-education plays an essential role in enabling nurses and other health workers and medical practitioners to acquire new knowledge and skills.

In 1995 the Ghanaian Ministry of Health formulated a medium-term health strategy in which re-education was focused upon as a major issue. Emphasis was placed on the establishment of a uniform and permanent system of training. To support establishment of this training system, in 1997 JICA began cooperation in the form of a plan to raise the standards of maternal and child health services.

◆ Collecting basic data and ascertaining needs

We began with a study aimed at gathering basic data on how often medical practitioners had received training in the past and at ascertaining precise needs. The study focused on three regions targeted for cooperation. Data was gathered on around 10,000 individuals, including 90% of the medical practitioners coming under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and a further 3,300 nurses and others working in private hospitals. This was the first study on the training of health workers and medical practitioners on this scale to have been performed in Ghana. The study brought various problems to light, notably the inequality of opportunity for training, the absence of an annual training program, and the lack of congruence between the needs of the trainees and the content of their training.

◆ Aiming to establish a permanent system

The causes of these problems are twofold: first, training is being provided without coordination of the training programs within the Ministry of Health; second, individual donors are providing training exclusively in their own areas of priority. The solution requires the establishment of a uniform training system on the basis of cooperation between donors and various departments within the

Project-type technical cooperation



Training of medical practitioners in the field of maternal and child health.

Ministry of Health. However, there is a complex intertwining of interests between all those concerned, and the main issue is whether these interests can be appropriately balanced. This is the main difficulty and indeed the essence of the system-building project.

We are at present working on this project in coordination and agreement with the related agencies in connection with the three following topics: (1) Creating a training database which records who has received training, where they received it, and the nature of their training; (2) Compiling and distributing research notes which list every individual's past training record (useful for the planning of training in the future); (3) Drawing up training guidelines that indicate which training courses should be attended in accordance with the type of occupation involved.

(JICA Ghana Office)

Upgrading of the economic infrastructure -- roads, bridges, and electrification -- is indispensable for economic development and stimulating investment. Support in this area is being provided primarily through grant aid. Human resources development aimed at raising the capacity to maintain and manage facilities after their construction is also under way through the dispatch of experts and the acceptance of training participants.

4. Control of foreign debt

At the Cologne Summit in June 1996, it was noted that the problem of accumulated foreign debt had become a major obstacle to development in Africa. In collaboration with development finance institutions in Japan and elsewhere, JICA has therefore been providing support for human resources development in the financial field in Africa.

In August 1999, JICA sent a lecturer to speak at the international seminar on debt management held for policy-makers under the joint sponsorship of the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Japanese government. JICA has also organized seminars aimed at administrators in Singapore and Tunisia. In addition, we are giving guidance aimed at raising financial administration abilities in Kenya to senior officials of the central bank and the Ministry of Finance at the College of Banking and Public Finance.

5. Good governance and peacebuilding

Taking account of the historical and cultural backgrounds of African countries, JICA is actively cooperating to establish the principles of good governance. This entails allowing the basic principles of



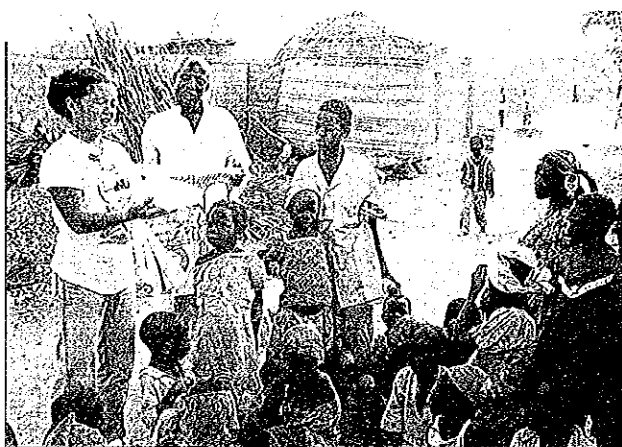
An overcrowded classroom with more than 100 pupils (Tanzania).

constitutionalism, democracy, and basic human rights to take root and raising the explanatory liability, transparency and efficiency of government, as these are the bases for development.

In October 1999, legislators from the three East African nations of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were invited to Japan to attend a seminar on democratization organized by JICA. Its focus was the development of democracy and the process of economic development in Japan. We intend to strengthen and expand our cooperation in this field in the future.

Conflict is continuing in various parts of Africa. In the realization of how important it is to provide cooperation with the process of establishing peace through the prevention of conflict and support for reconstruction, JICA is making an active contribution by studying how best to provide support in this area and by organizing an international conference jointly with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

We have also sent a study team to Mozambique to formulate a cooperative project aimed at clearing the anti-personnel mines laid during the period of civil war and providing support for the victims of these mines.



A JOCV providing itinerant health education using picture cards aimed at eradicating parasites (Niger).

Chapter 10

Middle East



Current State of Development



A Senior Overseas Volunteer engaged in transfer of remote sensing skills at the Hashemite University (Jordan).

II

Chapter 10

Middle East

Diverse Political and Economic Backgrounds

The Middle East region consists of 21 countries stretching from Afghanistan in the east to Morocco in the west and from Sudan in the south to Turkey in the north.

The climate throughout most of the region is arid or semi-arid, apart from the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, where there is high humidity; North Africa, which has a Mediterranean climate; and the southern part of the Arabian peninsula, which has a mountainous climate.

Political systems include kingships and emirates in the Gulf States, secular republics in Turkey and Egypt, and an Islamic republic based on clerical rule in Iran. Economic disparities between the countries of the region are considerable: whereas the Gulf states and the North African countries are blessed with extensive petroleum and natural gas resources, countries such as Yemen and Sudan are classified as LLDCs* since they lack natural resources and are lagging behind economically.

Varied Development Conditions

Many countries in the Middle East have rich histories going back way beyond the Common-Era, and they have varied social and cultural backgrounds. Since the end of the Second World War, the region has seen much conflict, including four wars fought between Israel and the Arab nations, the Lebanese conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Gulf War.

The Middle East is a very diverse area, and the development picture it presents is equally varied. For instance, the Gulf States have pushed ahead with economic and social development using the vast oil revenues gained from development of petroleum resources, and this has enabled them to establish a high level of infrastructure*. However, these countries urgently need to train personnel to support their nation-building efforts since, partially because of their small populations, they still have insufficient human resources of their own.

There are also several countries experiencing difficult economic conditions where the provision of services remains inadequate in connection with basic human needs (BHN*) such as basic medical care and safe water supply.

Basic Principles of JICA Aid for the Middle East

JICA is involved especially in fields of development for which needs exist throughout the Middle East, in particular management of water resources, environmental conservation and stimulation of industry. At the same time, the political, economic and social diversity of the region means that cooperation must be planned to take account of different situations in specific countries.

From the standpoint of supporting the Middle East peace process, which is the main issue in this region, JICA is actively providing technical cooperation for Palestine, one of the main parties in the peace process,

in the form of grant aid for basic human needs (such as medical care and education) and acceptance of training participants. Support is also being given to the neighboring countries of Egypt and Jordan.

In Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing states, JICA is providing support for the economic diversification efforts needed to enable these countries to break free of their monocultural economic structure reliant on petroleum. Cooperation involves especially the training of engineers and technical personnel.

In countries with relatively high income levels such as Tunisia and Turkey, technical

cooperation is being provided with the emphasis on promotion of industry.

JICA provides technical cooperation and grant aid in countries with relatively low income levels such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Yemen. Cooperation is occurring especially with the upgrading and expansion of industrial infrastructure and the satisfaction of basic human needs (BHN) in areas such as health care.

Apart from the occasional case of humanitarian and emergency aid, cooperation is not currently being provided to Libya, Sudan, Iraq, and Afghanistan (as of April 2000).

Tackling Priority Issues in JICA Projects

Active Support for Peace in the Middle East

The Middle East is affected by regional disputes and civil war, and the Middle East peace process has been the central issue in the region in recent years.

In September 1993, the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) agreed that Palestine should establish an autonomous zone in Gaza and on a part of the West Bank of the River Jordan, which Israel had occupied since the 3rd Middle East War of 1967. The Palestinian Authority was established in May 1994 as an autonomous government for the Palestinian people. In September 1995, an agreement was reached on expanding self-rule to the whole of the West Bank region. Elections to the assembly were held in January 1996, and the institutions of state are now being created. After the subsequent assassination of Prime Minister Rabin and the passing of the Netanyahu government, which took a cautious stance toward the peace process, the Barak regime came to power in Israel in May 1999. As expectations rise, the international community including Japan is continuing in various ways to support the furtherance of the peace process.



Participants in third-country training held in Turkey. Japan is supporting the South-South cooperation activities conducted by Turkey for the benefit of Central Asian countries.



Plan for improving an information system on agricultural statistics involving individual expert dispatch. Technical transfer occurs through fieldwork (Syria).

Achievements in the Field of Environment, Economy and Water Resources

At the Multilateral Middle East Peace Negotiations held in 1992, five working committees on the environment, economic development, water resources, arms control, and refugees were set up to assist with the peace process. Japan has been actively contributing by chairing the environmental committee and taking part in multinational discussions. Japan is also providing support through international agencies and directly through JICA.

In connection with support for the environmental committee, JICA is providing third-country training* in Jordan (training on upgrading of environmental law) to Palestine, Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. The training in this case involves the dispatch of lecturers from the United States, Canada, and the European Union.

As well as technical cooperation in the field of occupational training through continuing support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), JICA has also been involved since 1995 in studies and implementation promotion work on grant projects in connection with basic infrastructure. Specific projects of this nature have included planning related to improvements in hospitals and medical equipment, construction of elementary and secondary schools, and improvements in waste disposal facilities. We have also performed development studies on upgrading of sewerage facilities.

Cooperation on human resources development in Palestine since 1997 has included acceptance of training participants on a bilateral basis in the fields of occupational training and administration, and third-country training* aimed at creating a core complement of engineers with proficiency in such fields as telecommunications, maintenance of medical equipment, and electric power. This training has been carried out for the benefit of Palestinians in the neighboring countries of Egypt and Jordan.

Response to the Japan-Saudi Arabia Cooperation Agenda

With the aim of expanding relations between Japan and Saudi Arabia, an agreement was reached in October 1998 on expanding cooperation in the five fields referred to in the Japan-Saudi Arabia Cooperation Agenda: education and human development; the environment; medical care, science and technology; culture and sport; and investment and joint venture operations.

JICA is providing cooperation in education and human resources development, the environment, and medical care, science and technology. In the field of education, we are cooperating with human resources development through the training of teaching staff at the Center for the Development of Education in Electronics Technology and the provision of technical cooperation for the training of engineers at the technical college level. As to the environment, we are

carrying out development studies such as the "Study on Coastal/Marine Habitat in the Northern Part of the Red Sea Coast" and the "Project for Environmental Monitoring in the Persian Gulf." We are also providing research cooperation* in connection with "Ecosystems and Biodiversity* for Conservation of Juniper Forests."

In 1999 a study team was sent to assess cooperation needs in the fields of education and occupational training of women, who have less opportunity for study and employment in Saudi Arabia than men. JICA is thus getting ready for cooperation in new fields in line with the Cooperation Agenda.

II

Chapter 10

Middle East

Front Line

Ventures in Development Education

Egypt

Children are astonished to see the pyramids from on high

◆ The River Nile and water supply conditions

Running through Egypt is the great River Nile. No doubt many people think that all Egyptians are able to enjoy the benefits of this mighty river, but in reality 13% of the population does not even have access to safe drinking water.

A quarter of Egypt's population of 63 million live in the Cairo area. The water supply network has been unable to keep pace with the rapid concentration of population in this area, and the situation has become serious.

Japan has been cooperating in this field for many years, and we have helped make considerable improvements in water supply and sewerage facilities particularly in the metropolitan area of Cairo and El Giza.

◆ How do bilharzia die?

In January 2000, 41 children from the Japanese School in Cairo were given a comprehensive study lesson on the subject of "Water and Our Daily Lives."

A talk was given by an expert on clean water quality involved in JICA's project to plan improvements in the training of waterworks engineers. The children had the chance to visit the water supply plant recently constructed on the basis of the "Project for Improvement of Water Supply Systems in the Southern Pyramids Area of El Giza City" (grant aid). This was the first venture into the field of development education by JICA's Egypt Office.

There were two main focuses of study, "How is the water of the River Nile transformed into safe drinking water?" and "Learning how Japanese cooperation has improved the daily lives of local communities." Lessons were given with the children divided into three groups according to their age, but it was the group consisting of first-year junior high school pupils who plied the experts with a constant barrage of astute questions. Among the tricky ones posed was one from a pupil who said that he had heard about there being bilharzia (blood flukes) in the Nile and he wanted to know how they died before entering the water supply.



Children from the Japanese School in Cairo visiting the water supply plant.

This water supply plant is located right in front of the Japanese school and about two kilometers from the pyramids. On the day of the study session a fierce sandstorm covered the children in sand, but in the morning they were able to climb to the top of the water reservoir, bearing the ODA mark, inside the plant. Nineteen meters high and 33 meters in diameter, the tank afforded the excited children an unaccustomed view over the pyramids.

◆ Tackling development education

The lesson on this particular occasion was on the subject of water, but we were made to realize that any JICA project could be used as material for development education. On the basis of this experience, we intend to work positively on new development education projects in our area in the future.

(JICA Egypt Office)

Support for South-South Cooperation

There are several countries in the Middle East that are themselves engaged in South-South cooperation*. They are thus using their own development experience to cooperate with other developing countries. JICA is actively supporting these activities, especially through the medium of third-country training. Such training is aimed at more than 20 countries in the Middle East and Central Asia, including Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia.

In 1998, Japan signed a framework agreement with Egypt and Tunisia on South-South cooperation aimed at supporting the cooperation being provided by these two nations to countries in Africa. In 1999, the Japanese and Tunisian governments held a "Debt Management Seminar" for the benefit of African countries facing difficulties in connection with foreign debt problems. This seminar in Tunisia was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.



The "Environmental Monitoring Training Project" is a project-type technical cooperation venture aimed at conserving the environment (Egypt).

Emergency and Recovery Support Following the Earthquake in Turkey

In response to the earthquake that struck northern Turkey in August 1999, Japan dispatched an emergency relief team, a rescue team, a medical team, and a team of experts in the field of earthquake protection. Emergency supplies were also provided and grant aid was implemented. To provide urgent assistance to the victims of the earthquake, the temporary housing that had been used after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in Japan was made available. We are now continuing to work together with NGOs to provide community support to enable the victims to regain their self-reliance.

Istanbul was not seriously damaged by this earthquake, but there remains a strong possibility that the city will be hit by another earthquake some time in the future. JICA is thus planning to draw up a basic plan for disaster prevention in Istanbul on the basis of a development study.

Front Line

Fisheries Technical Training

Morocco

Senior fishermen increase almost six-fold over 12 years

◆ First ever college for training of high-grade fishermen

Although the image of Morocco in the minds of most Japanese people is associated with desert, this nation facing the Atlantic and the Mediterranean is in fact blessed with plentiful fishery resources. Annual catches amount to 700,000 tons, and in 1998 Morocco exported fishery produce centering on octopus and squid worth US\$240 million to Japan.

As is evident from these figures, Japanese cooperation has played an important role in the development of the Moroccan fishing industry. A representative example of this cooperation is the project involving establishment of the Institute of Marine Fisheries Technology of Agadir on which Japan has been cooperating for more than a decade.

In 1981 Morocco declared an exclusive economic sea zone of 200 nautical miles. At that time, however, there was no institution in Morocco involved in the training of senior fishermen such as captains and chief engineers, so foreigners were employed to fill these positions. Such being the situation, the Moroccan government set up the Institute of Marine Fisheries Technology of Agadir, the nation's first training institution for senior fishermen, with the aims of enabling the Moroccan fishing industry to become self-reliant and of modernizing the industry. The government sought Japanese cooperation in this connection.

Project-type technical cooperation

◆ High hopes for third-country training

JICA began sending experts and supplying facilities and equipment to this college in 1986, and the project is due to end in 2001.

As a result of this project, the number of Moroccan senior fishermen increased from a mere 160 in 1985 to 930 in 1997. The college has now become one of the most competitive and demanding educational institutions in Morocco, with 2,500 applicants every year for only 100 places.

The education provided at the college is highly regarded in African countries as well. To satisfy the demand from outside Morocco, the college accepts foreign students from nearby countries such as Senegal, Mauritania, and Tunisia, and since 1998 it has been providing third-country training courses aimed at Francophone African countries with support from JICA.

This was one of the projects spotlighted by a special international cooperation award to commemorate JICA's 25th anniversary in August 1998. As well as publicizing the past achievements of the college, JICA intends to continue providing active support for the college as a base not only for contributing to the development of the fishing industry in Morocco but also for regional cooperation and South-South cooperation throughout Francophone Africa.

(JICA Morocco Office)

Chapter 11 Europe



Note: Only DAC-listed countries shown.

Current State of Development



An Implementation promotion study team and government officials discuss the "Project for Restoration of Public Transport Capacity in the City of Sarajevo" (grant aid) (Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Support for Democratization and Socioeconomic Reform

For many years after the Second World War, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe had communist regimes that were essentially satellites of Moscow. Human rights and environmental problems became serious matters of concern under their centralized planned economic systems. During the 1980s, the inefficiency of economic management under such systems led to their inevitable collapse.

In 1989, Poland and Hungary led the way away from communism toward the market economy. They were joined by other countries of Central and Eastern Europe in democratization and economic and social reform.

The industrialized nations welcomed these reform efforts and began to provide support within the framework of the G24 colloquium of countries interested in providing aid to the area. The G24 group consists of 24 nations including the 15 members of the European Union, Japan, the United States, and Canada. International organizations such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also take part.

In line with G24 resolutions, since 1990 the Japanese government has been extending the range of its aid operations from Poland and Hungary to include the Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia when aid was commenced in 1991), Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia. Support on an ODA basis was provided for the first time in 1997 to Moldova, which has now transferred to Part 1 of the DAC list*, and Ukraine.

Importance of Ascertaining Each Country's Economic Situation and Aid Needs

Now that a decade has elapsed since the collapse of communism, clear differences are beginning to emerge between individual countries in Central and Eastern Europe in terms of transfer to a market economy and the results of economic and social reform.

Several countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are progressing smoothly toward reform. These have joined the OECD and will shortly

Basic Principles of JICA Aid to Central and Eastern Europe

Since embarking on full-scale cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe in 1990, Japan has provided aid in the following priority fields:

- (1) Support for introduction of the market economy (economic policy, productivity enhancement, management control, etc.);
- (2) Environmental response (air pollution, waste disposal, etc.);
- (3) Rehabilitation of economic infrastructure*.

In the medium-term policy relating to ODA announced in August 1999, reference was made to various kinds of support for countries party to conflict and their neighboring countries.

In addition to the above common development topics, we will need to strengthen country-specific approaches in the priority fields of support in line with the varying direction and pace of development in each country.

Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Estonia are relatively well advanced on the path to development and are set to join the European Union in 2003. Aid to these countries is focusing on the transfer of industrial technology and expertise and responses to industrial environments.

But in countries such as Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova, where reform is not moving ahead as smoothly as might be

hoped, the emphasis is placed on traditional forms of economic and social cooperation involving upgrading of economic infrastructure, agricultural development, medical care, and improvements to water supply and sewerage facilities.

Several countries, including Macedonia, Albania, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, are experiencing delicate political problems posed by ethnic concerns. Aid for such countries involves post-conflict stabilization and medium- and long-term recovery development with due consideration given to ethnic balance.

be entering the European Union. In contrast, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine are experiencing enormous problems in reconstructing their economies and industrial structures. These problems are concerned not only with economic management: these nations are also witnessing an increasingly serious trend toward growth in the numbers of poor and decline in standards of medical care.

The countries of the Balkan region, including those that made up the former Yugoslavia and Albania, are having to endure many destabilizing factors induced by civil war and ethnic problems, as evident in the breakup of the Yugoslav federation and wars between its former members during the 1990s, and the war in Kosovo. Political stability and economic rehabilitation and development are important topics for all these countries.

Under these conditions, it has become increasingly important in recent years to ascertain correctly the economic conditions and aid needs of each of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It is also essential to effectively combine or differentiate intellectual support* in forms such as support for introduction of the market economy and traditional types of economic and social development cooperation.



A JOCV and a counterpart repairing ceramic pottery for the creation of a museum collection database (Bulgaria).

Front Line

Fermented Dairy Products Development Project

Bulgaria

Rebuilding Bulgaria's reputation as a producer of quality yogurt

◆ Yogurt production in crisis

When people think of Bulgaria, yogurt is one of the first things that come to mind. Yogurt was first introduced into Japan from Bulgaria. Japan is now providing Bulgaria, the home of yogurt, with technical cooperation aimed at improving the technology used in its production.

The dairy industry had been run on a large-scale, communal basis at state-owned farms until the introduction of the market economy in Bulgaria in 1991. The dairy industry was then split up, cattle were distributed among individual farmers, and the scale of dairy farming was substantially reduced. This led to a halving in production of raw milk and milk products and there was an accompanying drastic decline in quality.

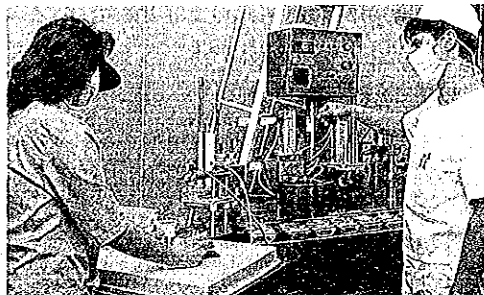
Bulgaria has rich resources in terms of grasses and flowers from which lactobacilli can be gathered: between 600 and 700 types of lactobacilli have previously been found, but these lactobacilli are not being fully used under the present conditions.

The Bulgarian government believes that regeneration of the dairy industry is an important pillar of economic stabilization. The government therefore requested that Japan provide technical cooperation aimed at improving the quality of dairy products and making effective use of the rich supplies of lactobacilli.

◆ Sure results

The "Fermented Dairy Products Development Project" got under way in July 1997 and is scheduled to run for five years. We are now at the middle stage of the project. Both the Japanese and Bulgarian sides produced mid-term evaluations of the results of the cooperation so far. The following were singled out as the principal achievements:

Project-type technical cooperation



Inspection and analysis capabilities have risen since the introduction of high-performance analytical equipment.

- (1) Around 500 types of lactobacillus strain have been gathered and isolated from traditional yogurts and nature, and several that hold out good prospects for future applications have been identified.
- (2) Technology transfer* involving methods of manufacture and use of starters (lactobacilli) and methods for the development of plain yogurt is proceeding smoothly.
- (3) State-of-the-art high-capacity, high-speed analyzers such as "milkoscan" have been provided.

This project has made it possible to produce better-quality yogurt and dairy products. Everyone involved in this project hopes that the export of these products to other countries will make a significant contribution to Bulgarian economic development.

(JICA/JOCV Bulgaria Office)

JICA's Approach to Priority Issues

Bringing a Distinctive Touch to Cooperation

Support for the transition to a market economy is one of the priority issues for aid to Central and Eastern Europe. This is a broad concept that includes providing policy advice on matters such as supporting industry and improving legal institutions. It also includes cooperation contributing to the development of human and material resources through training of the personnel required to run the new economic systems and industries and the transfer of technology and expertise.

In Poland, JICA is providing cooperation with human resources development in the field of



A JOCV instructing a class in the Japanese martial art of Kendo (Budapest).

information sciences at the Polish-Japanese Institute of Information Engineering on the basis of a five-year project that started in 1996. In Hungary, we provided cooperation until 1999 with quality control, factory improvement, and staffing and labor improvements at the Hungary Productivity Center. The Japanese government and the European Parliament jointly held a "Seminar on Employment Strategy and Increasing Productivity" at the Center in 1999. The aim of this seminar was to make officials in charge of employment and economic policy in neighboring countries more aware of the results of technical cooperation and other related information. Policy support cooperation was started in fiscal 1999 in Bulgaria in the field of industrial policy, and efforts

From Line

Local people show delight at the first skiing cooperation project

◆ The first JOCV project of its kind

Romania is well known in Japan as country where sport flourishes. The country's sporting reputation has been established by outstanding sportsmen and women such as the great gymnast Nadia Comaneci and, more recently, the marathon-runner Gabriela Szabo.

JOCVs have been active in Romania in various fields of sport. Cooperation in this area began with the traditional Japanese sports of kendo and judo, and then went on to volleyball, a sport in which Japan is particularly strong. After around two years, the range of sporting activities gradually began to grow yet further.

One unusual example of cooperation in this area is in the field of skiing. There is no precedent for such cooperation among JOCV dispatch activities, and indeed this was the first time that JOCVs had ever been sent overseas for this purpose.

Because of this, we received a thorough grilling when the request was placed with JICA headquarters. "Why should JOCVs get involved in such an expensive project?" "Is skiing a sport enjoyed by all Romanians?" We found ourselves fumbling for answers, but finally managed to get our point across. The long-awaited JOCVs arrived in Romania to take up their posts in December 1999. Two JOCVs, one a specialist in ski jumping and the other in cross-country skiing, are currently hard at work.

◆ A fun ski tournament

In Romania, ski jumping and cross-country skiing are not the exclusive preserves of the affluent classes: one of the by-products of the communist era is that skiing is regarded as a sport that demonstrates Romania's national pride with everyone participating.

Sports Volunteers Romania

JOCV dispatch



A JOCV providing instruction in cross-country skiing.

But the country has no ski jumps that meet international standards, and there are only five small, hand-made jumps nationwide.

All the local people came out to help at the skiing tournament held at Giurgeni and to watch the events. The JOCVs reported back that the atmosphere had all the fun of a Japanese village festival. The joy of the local people made us aware that skiing is one of the great pleasures of the winter season in snowy regions, and we were reassured that we had made the right decision to send JOCVs to the district.

(JICA/JOCV Romania Office)

are being made to ensure that Japan's experience in industrial promotion comes in useful for economic development in these countries.

A feature of these countries that distinguishes them from other developing countries is that they generally possess high technical levels and a plentiful supply of trained personnel. When providing cooperation to these countries, we need therefore to make sure that we achieve a proper balance between the technical capabilities that people in the region possess but have so far not been able to apply adequately and the technology that Japan is able to provide. Since the eventual goal of these countries is to join the European Union, we have also to decide on how best to emphasize the distinctive features of Japanese cooperation while at the same time ensuring that this cooperation is fully in accord with the policies, rules and regulations, and legal institutions of the EU.

Post-conflict Stabilization and Recovery Support

Post-conflict recovery support is also a major topic for future cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Balkan region.



A JOCV playing with infants at an orphanage in Bulgaria.

Following the Dayton Accords of November 1995, Japan has been providing Bosnia-Herzegovina with aid for the process of reconstruction. JICA has dispatched project formulation advisors and study teams to Bosnia since 1996. We have also been contributing to post-conflict stabilization and recovery through the mediums of grant aid and technical cooperation in electric power, transportation and medical care, as these are areas likely to produce clear results in a relatively short space of time.

Another achievement in fiscal 1999 was the performance of a study on possibilities for cooperation on the use of former refugee camps in Macedonia used during the Kosovo crisis.

Japan's various support activities for the Balkan region are concerned not merely with national recovery and development. We take full account of post-conflict stabilization and ethnic balance, and this attitude has been warmly welcomed by countries in the region.

