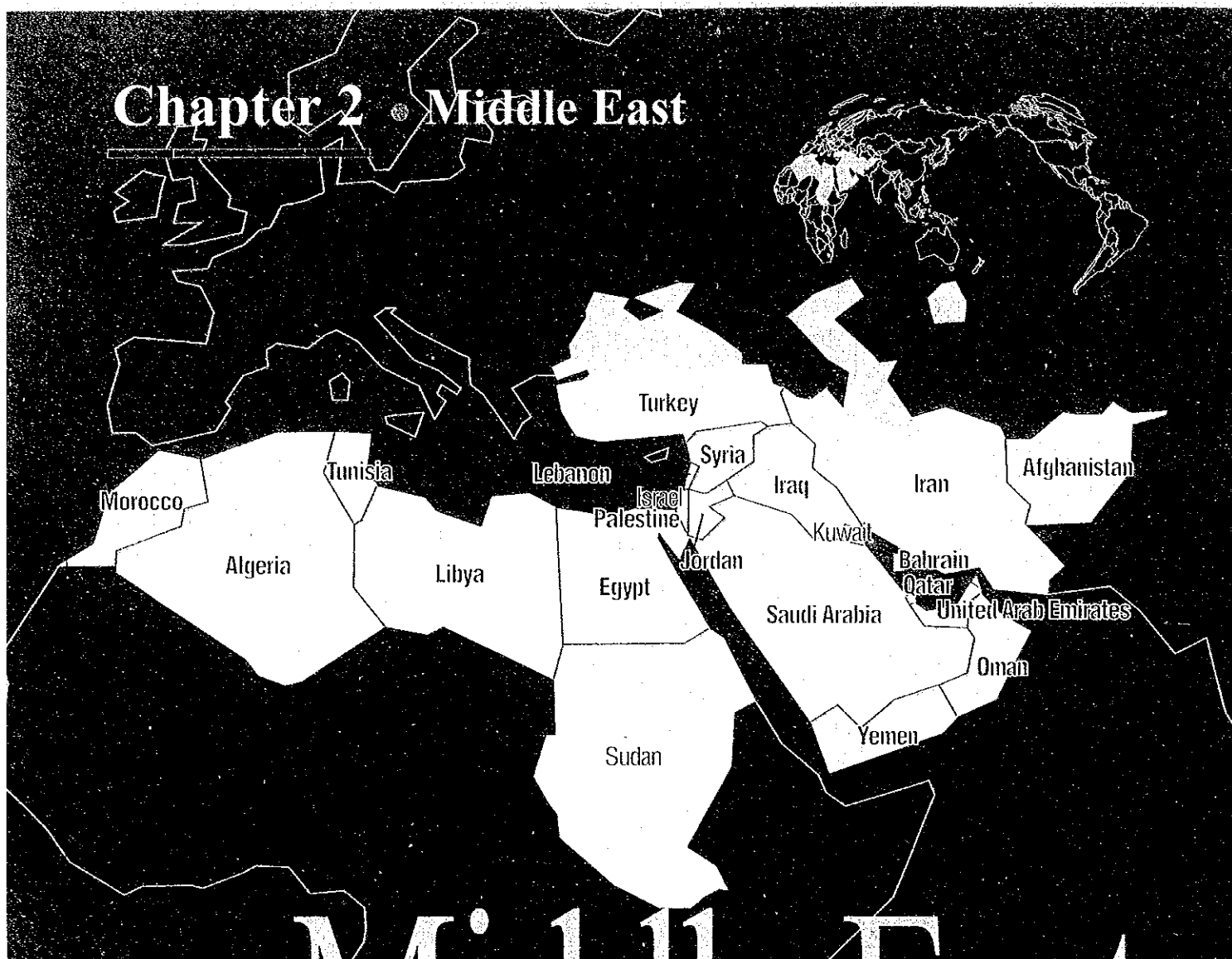


Chapter 2 • Middle East



Middle East

Pillars of Aid Develop Cooperation Reflecting Different Situations in Each Country with a Focus on Middle East Peace

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

From the standpoint of supporting the Middle East peace process, which is the biggest 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 acceptance of technical training participants in the fields of occupational training and enhancement in government administration capability. 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 is centered on 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 an emphasis on human resource development.

On the other hand, JICA provides technical cooperation and grant aid to countries with relatively low-income levels, such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Yemen. Cooperation is occurring in relation to upgrading and expanding industrial infrastructure* and satisfying 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 Iraq, Libya, and Sudan.

Current State of Development

Diverse Political and Economic Backgrounds

The 22 countries of the Middle East region stretch 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 Arabian 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 kingdoms, emirates, secular republics, and an Islamic republic based on clerical rule.

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 least developed countries* (LDCs) since they lack natural resources and are lagging behind economically.



Empowerment* through apiculture in the Family Planning and WID* Project in Jordan



Seroepidemiology study for infectious disease control in Turkey

Varied Development Conditions

Many countries in the Middle East have rich histories extending far back beyond the birth of Christ, in addition to varied social and cultural backgrounds.

Since the end of World War II, the region has seen much conflict, including four wars fought between Israel and the Arab nations, the Lebanese conflict, the civil war in Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq War, the Gulf War, and the US military attack on Afghanistan. The Middle East is a very diverse area, and the development picture it presents is in no way uniform.

For instance, the Gulf states have pushed ahead with economic and social development using vast oil revenues gained from the 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, particularly 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 with regard to basic human living conditions, such as basic medical care and a safe water supply.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Support for Peace in the Middle East

In September 2000, when Israel's Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon visited Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City, a conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians broke out. Even after the inauguration of the Sharon regime in March 2001, a vicious cycle of violence in the form of radical Palestinian suicide bombings followed by Israeli military reprisals intensified.

Since the 1993 Oslo agreement, Japan has actively taken part in multinational discussions by chairing the Environmental Working Group, which is one of five working groups established at the Multilateral Middle East Peace Negotiations held in 1992 to support the peace process

(Environment, Regional Economic Development, Water, Arms Control, and Regional Security and Refugees). Japan has also made active contributions by providing support through international agencies and directly through JICA.

In connection with support for the Environment Working Group, in 1999, JICA provided in Jordan, through the third-country training* scheme, training to improve techniques and knowledge of environmental legislation and enforcement to Palestine, Egypt, Israel, and Jordan.

Moreover, JICA provides technical cooperation in the field of occupational training through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Front Line Flood Forecasting System for Atlas Region

Morocco

Flood Control in a Desert Country

Development Study

◆ Occasional heavy rains in Morocco

It rains even in a desert country like Morocco. Clouds instantly fill the sky and dark rain clouds appear, flushing the desert with a downpour. Then, suddenly, the sun peaks through the clouds, creating a magnificent rainbow. These peculiar heavy rains occur in an arid land region.

In recent years, due to the influence of global warming, drizzling rain has become more common in Morocco, and the people welcome the rain as a blessing from God. However, in the steep mountain ranges of the Atlas and the Rif regions, the rains often turn into the kind of flash floods and mud slides that have threatened the local residents for centuries. Therefore, people do not like to live in low-lying areas. It is more common for people in Morocco to live on slightly elevated plateaus and hills and then go down to the lowlands to tend their fields and draw water.

◆ Difficult installation of rain gauges

JICA is providing cooperation for the Flood Forecasting System in areas around Ourika Valley in southern Marrakech. This system employs the latest IT to wirelessly collect automatically measured data regarding rainfall and changes in surface of the river. Based on the collected data, a computer software program developed exclusively for this project is used to run a simulation for a prompt and accurate forecast of disaster risk that can facilitate emergency evacuations of local residents and tourists when necessary.

The installation of the equipment, including an automatic metering device, which was carried out in the autumn of 2001, required a great deal of time and trouble. The equipment was transported up steep unpaved hillsides using donkeys and human power. As winter was around the corner, snowfall interrupted operations, necessitating a fight against time. With the help of helicopters, the



Evaluation meeting of evacuation drill using the flood forecasting system

installation of the equipment was completed and in December 2001, it was officially introduced to local dignitaries at a reception, which was broadcast on Morocco television, attracting the interests of local people.

The installation of the equipment was the first step in making an escape guidance system. Future projects include linkage and cooperation between the observation station and local police, municipalities, residents, and tourist agencies.

(JICA Morocco Office)

In addition, 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 enhancement of government administration capabilities, and third-country training aimed at creating a core complement of Palestine engineers with proficiency in such fields as maintenance of medical equipment and the use of an agricultural water supply in the neighboring countries of Jordan and Syria.

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 to expand cooperation in the five fields referred to in the Japan-Saudi Arabia Cooperation Agenda: education and human resource development; the environment; health and medicine, science and technology; culture and sport; and investment and joint venture operations.

JICA is providing cooperation mainly in education and human resources development, the environment, and medical care, science and technology. In the field of education, JICA is supporting human resources development for the nation's citizens through the training of teaching staff at the Center for the Development of Education in Electronics Technology, as well as engineers at the technical college level and automobile mechanics in the form of technical cooperation.

With regard to the environment, JICA is carrying out a number of development studies, including the Study on Coastal/Marine Habitat and Biological Inventories in the Northern Part of the Red Sea Coast in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Study on an Environmental Assessment and Monitoring of the Arabian Gulf in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, JICA is providing research cooperation* in connection with the Joint Study Project on the Conservation of Juniper Woodlands in Saudi Arabia.

In addition to this cooperation, in January 2000 the Japanese government made public plans to promote inter-cultural dialogue, cooperation in the field of water resources and, wide-ranging policy dialogue. JICA is progressing with the Riyadh City water system development and water resource development study in the southwest region, and also plans to start cooperation in the field of archaeology.



Study on Coastal/Marine Habitat and Biological Inventories on the Northern Part of the Red Sea Coast in Saudi Arabia

Commencement of Cooperation in the IT Field

In 2001, JICA started to provide cooperation to Jordan in the IT field that involves such activities as development of digital self-learning materials and the promotion of community-based activities aimed at bridging the digital divide*.

Cooperation in Water Resources Field

Due to natural conditions, recent economic development, and population growth, securing water resources has become an important issue. In response, water resources management planning, improvements in water and sewerage facilities, and technical guidance in water services are being implemented to assist each country in addressing its water resources problems.

Support for South-South Cooperation

There are several countries in the Middle East that are engaged in south-south cooperation*, thus using their own development experience to help other developing countries. JICA actively supports 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, Syria, Turkey, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Reconstruction Assistance for Afghanistan

In December 2001, when an interim regime was inaugurated in Afghanistan, the international community began reconstruction assistance. At the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance for Afghanistan held in Tokyo in

January 2002, Japan rallied support for the peace process and citizen reconciliation, as well as support for development of human resources who will shoulder the burden of creating a new Afghanistan.

JICA places priority on media infrastructure, education, health and medical care, and the empowerment* of women in providing cooperation. At the same time, by posting a representative in Kabul, JICA will build an implementation system to promote full-scale reconstruction and development support.



International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance for Afghanistan

Front Line Conservation of Juniper Woodlands

Saudi Arabia Protecting Precious Forest Resources

Research Cooperation

◆ Abnormalities in forests

The Athirs are a range of mountains that reach to altitudes of between 2,000 to 3,000 m along the Red Sea in south-western Saudi Arabia. Since the climate in the Athirs is cool, a town called Abuha attracts many visitors from all over the country in the summer. Saudi Arabian temperatures can reach 50 degrees Celsius.

Bountiful forests cover the west side of the mountains due to damp winds from the Red Sea. For Saudi Arabia, which lacks vegetation and is 98% arid, these forests are seen as both precious natural resources and a resort for summer visitors.

The forest contains trees belonging to the Japanese cypress family called juniper. After the Gulf War in 1991, the juniper started to die off. The Saudi Arabian government made a request to JICA to investigate the cause of the problem, which was assumed to be a side-effect of the war.

◆ Experts dispatched in various fields

Over a three-year period starting in 1999, JICA carried out research cooperation* to clarify the cause of juniper death through the dispatch of long- and short-term experts in a wide range of fields, including aerology, botany, vegetation science, plant physiology, hydraulics, biogeography, microbiology, small animal science, and sanctuary management planning. Based on their findings, JICA has scheduled a workshop in fiscal 2002 attended by interested local training participants and government officials for the purpose of discussing juniper forest conservation and management.

A partner in this project, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD), was established for nature conservancy in 1986, providing for the protection and raising of domestic animals, the design



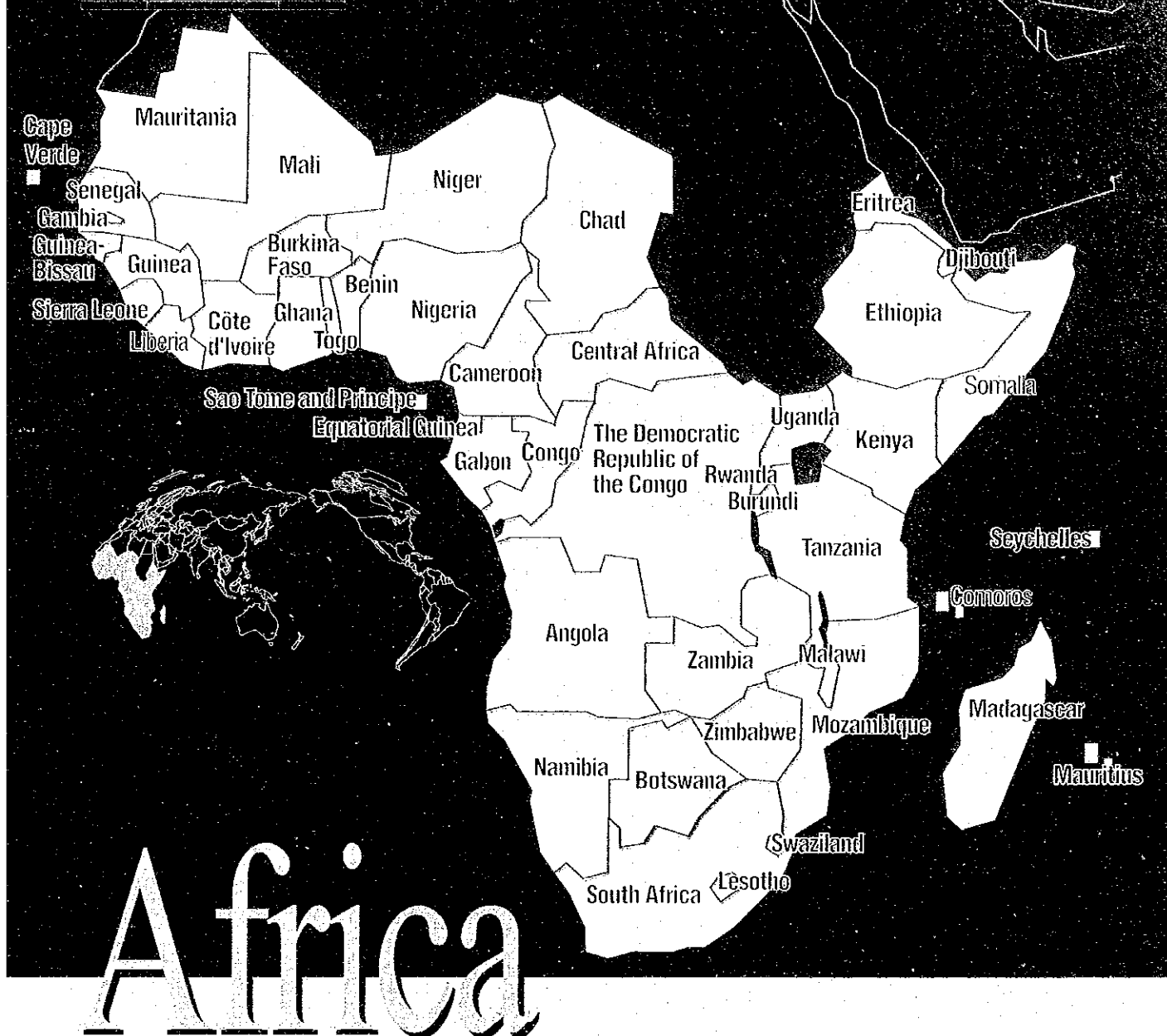
Local activity in Conservation of Juniper Woodlands project

nation and management of sanctuaries, and environmental education.

In the past, JICA implemented cooperation with NCWCD to create a database, establish sanctuaries, and produce teaching materials for environmental education in relation to natives of the Red Sea, which is rich in coral reefs and marine life.

(JICA Saudi Arabia Office)

Chapter 3 • Africa



Pillars of Aid Ultimate Goal of "Poverty Alleviation"

Aid from Europe and the United States did not increase significantly after the end of the Cold War. Considering the importance of Africa in terms of humanitarian needs and international politics, Japan hosted, as a co-organizer, the First Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I) in 1993 and TICAD II in 1998. The aim of these conferences was to stress the importance of African Development to the international community and to increase support to Africa.

Based on the guidelines for Japanese aid, Tokyo Agenda for Actions presented at TICAD II,

and the common goals of international society such as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), JICA is providing support for human resource development and capacity building to achieve the ultimate goal of "Poverty Alleviation." The following are JICA's priority areas.

- 1) Social development with emphasis on education, health, and water supply
- 2) Agricultural development for food security and pro-poor growth
- 3) Development of the private sector by strengthening market economy systems and promoting small and medium enterprises

- 4) Democratization, prevention of conflict, and post-conflict recovery as the foundation for development

In providing cooperation in these areas, JICA is promoting south-south cooperation* such as Asia-Africa cooperation and intra-regional cooperation among African countries. JICA is also actively participating in the drafting, implementing, and monitoring process of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper* (PRSP) and Sector Programs* (SP) to strengthen ownership of African countries and partnership and coordination of donors*.

Current State of Development

40% of the Population Live on Less than US\$1 a Day

Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding Sudan, which is classified as a Middle East country) extends over 21.87 million km². It has a truly diverse climate, ranging from desert-like arid regions to hot and humid tropical rain forest regions.

Although most African countries gained their independence during the 1960s, they had to face many difficulties in socioeconomic development following independence. Many, still influenced by their colonial past, have inherited economic structures that rely on specific primary products. These monocultural economic systems are vulnerable to drought and other natural disasters and fluctuations of international commodity markets. Limited access to education has also hindered national development by undermining their human resources.

During the 1960s, the decade when many African countries gained independence, these countries benefited from an international economic environment characterized by stability in the international prices of primary products for export and were able to achieve steady growth. However, with the exception of a few countries, their economic growth has become sluggish since the 1970s owing to a long-term fall in the prices of primary products; the failure of economic management; unstable political foundations; drought, flooding and severe climate changes; regional conflict; and civil war. Since the 1980s, the external debt of many countries grew to enormous proportions. In these countries, governments suffered from a constant shortage of funds for development (for new investments) but also funds for recurrent costs to provide basic social services.

Front Line

National School Mapping and Micro-planning Project

Malawi

Basic Education

Development Study

◆ Higher school attendance but low quality of education

Malawi is located in southern Africa. The number of school children who attend primary and secondary schools has increased rapidly since 1994 when primary education was made free. However, due to the rapid increase in the number of children, the shortage of schools and classrooms has been serious. Many children have to attend classes outside or in classrooms without desks and chairs. At the same time, the shortage of teachers and textbooks has led to a deterioration in the quality of education.

The Malawi government is trying to improve education with support from donors and NGOs. However, satisfactory results have not been achieved yet due to a lack of proper plans, curricula unsuitable to circumstances, low administrative control, and low management capacities.

◆ Making their own prefecture education programs

In order to create a better educational administration and high-quality education through decentralization, the Malawi government, with the support of JICA and other aid agencies, implemented a two-year project called National School Mapping (education statistics and analysis) and Micro-planning (education program formulation for each prefecture) starting in November 2000. This project has covered training programs and development of teaching materials to enhance the capacity of Malawi educational administrators for data management and program formulation. Training was provided for educational administrators and educators in the 33 districts nationwide. During the training session, each administrator planned education programs for his/her own prefecture. When the administrators return to their prefectures, they will play a central role in implementation of



At a Malawi school

the program after gaining approval from each prefecture assembly.

This project made the Ministry of Education and the regional educational administrators recognize the importance and effectiveness of statistical analysis. The administrators began to take pride in their development plans. Effective development plans and better use of resources are expected to improve primary and secondary education to meet need at the school level of each prefecture.

(JICA Malawi Office)

The stagnation or even decline of economic production and increased burden of debt have led to a serious situation in which 34 of the world's 49 least developed countries* (LDCs) are in Africa. Approximately 40% of the total population of Africa live under the poverty line of one dollar per day. In addition, new difficulties, such as marginalization from the world economy and infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, etc.) are aggravating African poverty.

Support for Africa in Transition

Many African countries are currently at a transitional period in terms of political, economic, and social development. In politics, many countries adopted a system of single-party dictatorship or military rule in order to ensure national unity after independence. But following the disappearance of the Cold War regime, the movement towards democracy led by the developed nations has gained momentum. Most African countries have gradually shifted to multi-party political systems.

In economics, many countries had tried to employ structural adjustment* policies since the 1980s to stabilize the macro-economy and establish fundamental economic conditions by removing excessive governmental controls, liberalizing factor and product market, promoting market competition, and so on. As a consequence of such measures, some countries such as Uganda, Ghana, and Burkina Faso per-

formed well in their management of macro-economics and economic growth.

However, in many countries, administrative, fiscal and governmental reforms involving sudden economic liberalization, privatization, and the downsizing of the public sector 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 social development in parallel with economic reform that mitigates negative impacts on the vulnerable and emphasizes benefits to the poor.

Aid approach has also changed dramatically in Africa. More NGOs, community based organizations, and even the private sector, which had been traditionally regarded as beneficiaries of public services, became involved in development projects as important players. Sector Programs* (SP) and PRSP represent a range of participants including NGOs, the private sector, and donors, encouraging recipient governments' ownership*. PRSP and SP emphasize participation and mutual consultation of all donors and recipient countries' governments to formulate common development strategies, to allocate financial resources, and to implement and monitor projects or programs according to common strategies. These coordination mechanisms are important in low-income African countries to save their scarce resources and generate successful outcome.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Building on the TICAD II "Tokyo Agenda for Action"

In fiscal 2001, JICA provided cooperation to 43 countries in Africa, representing all the countries in the region with the exceptions of Somalia, Liberia, Comoros, and Sierra Leone. Cooperation with African countries accounted for around 15% of the total budget of JICA's technical cooperation. Africa is the major target area of JOCV Program: around one in five JOCVs was sent to Africa in fiscal 2001.

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 80 countries, 40 international agencies and 22 NGOs, TICAD II adopted the "Tokyo Agenda for Action," which sets the basic agenda of actions to be taken by African countries and cooperating part-

ners for the development of Africa. On the basis of this agenda and with the awareness that the ultimate goal of African development is poverty alleviation, JICA is actively supporting capacity-building* in connection with the priority issues summarized below.

In 2001, a TICAD meeting at the ministerial level was held to review African development since TICAD II and formulate strategies for the future. In the meeting, the past TICAD process was found to have been effective and at the same time, a New Partnership for African Development, NEPAD, a development strategy made by African nations, was discussed. TICAD III is scheduled for 2003, and JICA will continue to actively participate in TICAD processes.

Various Development Approaches

1. Indispensable Human Resources Development

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

2. Promotion of Intra-regional Cooperation

Some African countries have small economies and it is not effective to provide large-scale aid to all countries. At the same time, there are many common issues among these countries, issues that might best be tackled jointly in order to achieve optimum results.

For these reasons, based on the results of cooperation accumulated in a number of priority countries, JICA believes that one important approach to providing aid effectively and efficiently is to promote intra-regional cooperation to support neighboring countries by using the abilities of related organizations in partner countries.

In line with this approach, JICA is supporting the African

Front Line Strengthening District Health Services Project in Morogoro State

Tanzania

Health Services that Reach Residents

Project-type Technical Cooperation

◆ Decentralized health administration

Tanzania has reformed in various fields such as local governance, education, and health sectors for the purpose of poverty alleviation. In the health field, since the latter half of the 1990s, reforms have been implemented to provide health services that correspond to the current situation of local residents. These reforms are intended to transfer health and medical care services from the central government to local governments, and are closely related to decentralization.

Under these circumstances, in order to support improvements in regional health administration, the Strengthening District Health Services Project in Morogoro State was commenced in April 2001 under a five-year cooperation plan, in Morogoro State and its five prefectures, which are located 200 km west of Dar es Salaam. The project places a priority, not on the expansion of medical and health care services nor on improvements in medical technology, but rather on improvements in the state and prefectural governments' administration capabilities,

which provide health and medical care services in accordance with the needs of local residents.

◆ Continuing activities after completion of cooperation

Four long-term experts have been dispatched to achieve specific goals: (1) improve the health management information system utilized for planning and evaluation; (2) promote the sharing of medical and health care information and experiences among municipalities for more efficient medical and health care administration and coordination among the agencies concerned; and (3) make it possible to offer health and medical care services that are suitable to regional situations by improving planning, implementation, and evaluation capabilities in the municipalities.

The main feature of this project is to encourage 'ownership' of the Tanzanian government and to limit Japanese presence using Japanese experts as just catalysts. The point is to have Tanzania become thoroughly aware that the initiative of reform lies with Tanzania, so that a system can be



Problem analysis for enhancing health administration

built where activities can continue after a cooperation project is completed. This concept was adequately discussed with the Tanzania counterparts' immediately after the commencement of the project, and as a result, a budget for the project was appropriated to the state and prefectures the following year. In most projects where foreign aid agencies have no choice but to bear all expenditures, this project is an improvement because of its achievement of promoting Tanzania's.

Through the teamwork of Japan and Tanzania, the necessary groundwork to develop specific activities towards achieving the goals as planned has been gradually formed.

(JICA Tanzania Office)

Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) established at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Engineering. AICAD will carry out research, training, and information dissemination for the benefit of African society. JICA is actively providing intra-regional cooperation in the fields of vocational training and water supply in Senegal. With a view to promoting the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative for July 2002 and Global Parasitic Disease Control, JICA is also implementing intra-regional cooperation primarily in East Africa and Southern Africa.

3. Aid Coordination, PRSP and the Sectoral Program Approach

In conjunction with the progress of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, the PRSP formulation has been promoted in each country, and some countries have formulated final versions.

The PRSPs present poverty alleviation strategies with a comprehensive view of the national poverty issue, based on participation of all stakeholders, and function as development guidelines with reasonable resource allocation. JICA participates in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring process of PRSPs with emphasis on cultivating ownership of African countries.

The "sector program" approach, which is important as a driving force of the PRSP process at each sectoral level, is being promoted in such fields as education and health. JICA is working to realize more effective cooperation by means of the SP approach. JICA is also working on such issues as the harmonization of procedures for the "common basket," and improvement of the predictability of aid. As part of these efforts, JICA began a study on the support program for rural and agriculture sector development in Tanzania in March 2001. JICA aims to improve the capacity of the Tanzanian government by providing support for the formulation of a development strategy and sector program in this area.

4. Promoting Cooperation Between Asia and Africa

Promoting cooperation between Asia and Africa is an approach to aid that emerged from the TICAD process. It involves the sharing of development experience in Asia with Africa.

JICA will continue its effort to strengthen cooperative relationships between the two regions by expanding training courses held in Asia for Africa, while also trying to match African needs with possible areas of cooperation from Asia.

Actions for Important Programs

1. Social Development

Scientific subjects and mathematics form the core of JICA's educational cooperation. JICA is currently implementing a technical cooperation project for in-service training of school teachers in Kenya, Ghana, and Southern Africa, whose aims are upgrading the quality of mathematics and science education.

In the field of health and medical care, cooperation is being provided in Tanzania and Zambia with 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. Concerning infectious diseases that constitute a major problem in Africa (such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis), there are also projects under implementation in Ghana, Kenya, and Zambia. Moreover, JICA held a Regional Workshop on HIV/AIDS in southern Africa in Zambia in March 2002 to expand cooperation in this field.

In the field of water supply, Japan is attempting to further expand regional water supply projects, which is in line with priorities of TICAD. For example, in order to raise the maintenance and administration capacity of water supply facilities and to expand hygiene education, we are implementing technical cooperation aimed not only at engineers but also at community organizations, such as water administration unions in Ethiopia and Senegal.

In Africa, women play the major role in agricultural production, housework, and child-rearing, yet they have limited access to education and other social services, which places them in a socially disadvantageous position. Based on such recognition, JICA tries to ensure that benefits are received equally by women and men. We encourage beneficiaries of our activities to participate in the development process at local communities from the initial stage. 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 areas by improving conditions of food security through efforts to raise the productivity of small-scale farmers and to diversify sources of cash income.

JICA is thus encouraging the supply of agricultural production materials by means of grant aid to African countries. We are also providing technical cooperation aimed at promoting irri-

gated cultivation among small-scale farmers in countries including Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, and Kenya.

3. Development of the Private Sector

JICA is providing training programs on trade and investment, and small and medium-size enterprises, so that they can contribute to the development of the private sector.

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

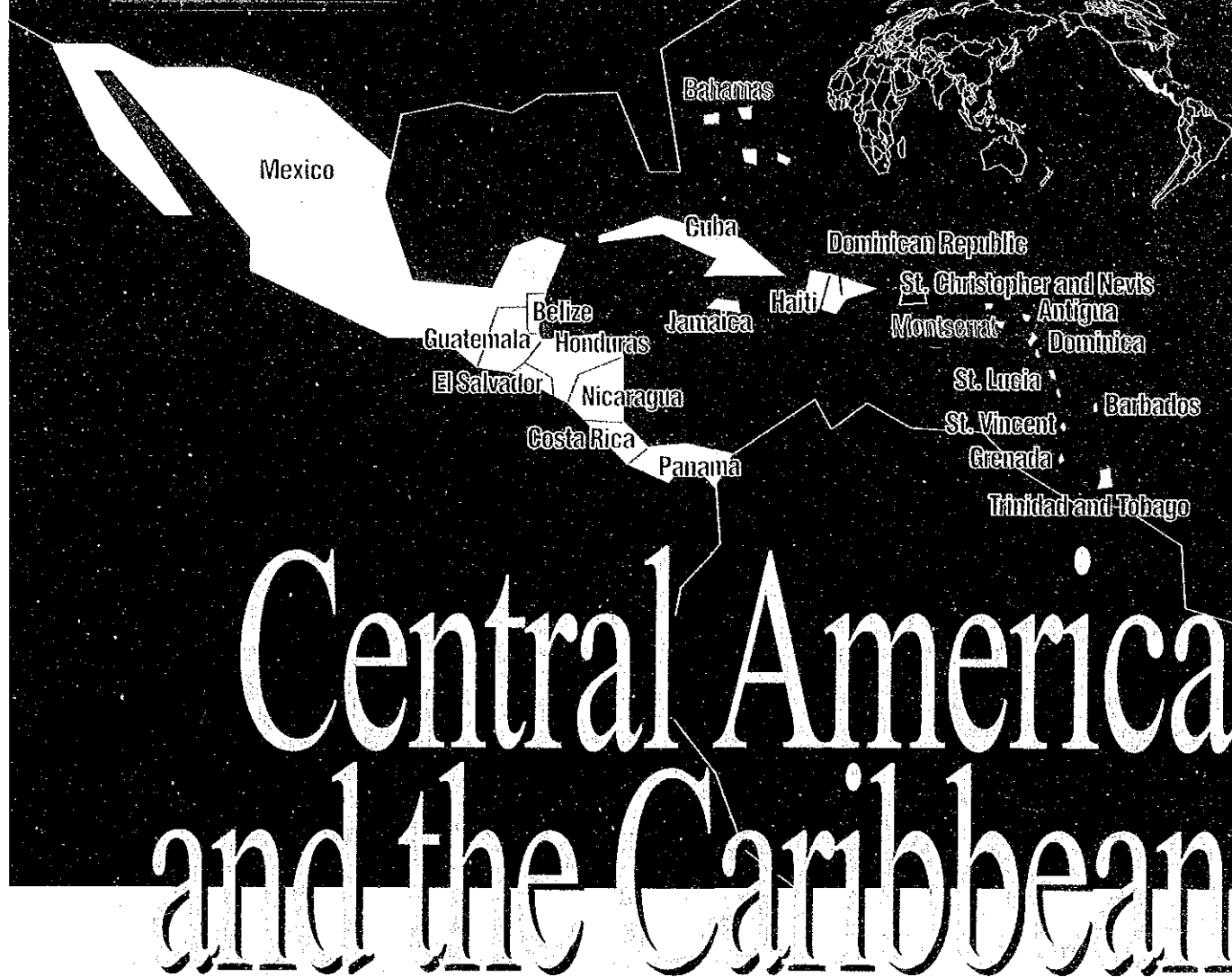
4. Prerequisite of Development: Good Governance and Peacebuilding

Taking into account the historical and cultural back-

grounds of African countries, JICA is actively cooperating to establish the principles of good governance*. This entails allowing the basic principles of constitutionalism, democracy, and basic human rights to take root and raising the accountability, transparency, and efficiency of government, as these are the bases for development.

In 2001, 24 members of parliament from the eight nations of Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, South Africa, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Mali 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. In addition, in conflict-ridden Africa, JICA formulated projects aiming to lessen the burden accompanying the acceptance of refugees through the implementation of a joint study with the UNHCR in Tanzania. This was part of a new initiative in the field of post-conflict reconstruction (peacebuilding).

Chapter 4 • Latin America I



Pillars of Aid Increasing Mutual Cooperation in the Region

JICA provides cooperation in the fields of human resources capacity building and nation-building to countries in Central America and the Caribbean, taking into account of the following prioritized issues and self-help effort on the part of the recipient countries:

1. Promotion of regional cooperation utilizing south-south cooperation

In this region, relatively developed countries and those in difficult conditions are bonded by common languages such as Spanish and English. There are increasing calls for the promotion of mutual cooperation in the region and the necessity to improve the efficiency of aid in the world as a whole is intensifying, which makes JICA's continuing support for south-south cooperation* in this region an important priority.

In addition, in the countries of the region which share many common issues, JICA will

promote effective and efficient regional cooperation projects that can be adapted and utilized by several countries. Areas such as disaster prevention, infectious disease control, the environment, and fisheries are deemed to be promising.

2. Post-hurricane development

In October 1998, Central America and the Caribbean was struck by hurricanes of unprecedented size, and in January 2001, devastating earthquakes hit El Salvador. Those natural disasters caused enormous damage. JICA will support the recovery and reconstruction plans of countries that fell victim to these disasters as well as enhancement of national capacities for disaster prevention in this region where many disasters occur.

3. Environment

In this region, modernization and development of industry and economy have been

accompanied by serious environmental problems involving air and water pollution, the generation of harmful waste products, and over-concentration of population in metropolitan districts. Dealing with these problems has become an urgent issue. The region is endowed with forest areas of great biological diversity* and a beautiful ocean. Their preservation leads to the safeguarding of natural assets for humankind.

4. Development after civil war

The civil war that racked Central America for several decades severely damaged the region's social and economic infrastructure*. Sectors that are particularly affected and in need of support include water supply, health and medical care, basic education, agricultural development, construction of roads and bridges, democratization, and public-security improvement.

Current State of Development

Small Countries with Many Similarities

Central America and the Caribbean comprise 21 countries; eight in Central America and 13 in the Caribbean. It occupies an area of 2.96 million km², or 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, of which eight have land areas of less than 10,000 km² and nine have populations of less than one million people.

The economies of most of the countries in this region are based on agriculture and are reliant on exports of the primary products. Although tourism is thriving, manufacturing and other industries remain relatively underdeveloped in the region as a whole. Even though their economies have improved in recent years, helped by the long economic boom in the United States, they are still burdened with accumulated debts and there is concern about the negative impact of the terrorist attacks that took place in the U.S. in September 2001.

Massive Damage Due to Civil War and Natural Disasters

The civil wars, which lasted in Central America for more than a decade from the late 1970s, played havoc on the territories and economies of the countries concerned. Neighboring countries felt repercussions in the form of influx of refugees and arms. Peace-making proceeded in the early 1990s and, following the signing of the Guatemalan peace accords in December 1996, all the countries of the region with the exception of Cuba now have democratically elected governments. However, the damage that was inflicted on the social and economic infrastructure of these countries is still being felt today:

many countries have inadequate water supply facilities and are yet to attain adequate health and medical care and basic education. Assistance from developed countries is essential to solve these problems.

In addition, in fall 1998, hurricanes hit Central America and the Caribbean region and caused damage on an unprecedented scale. Furthermore, in January and February 2001, devastating earthquakes struck El Salvador, which resulted in massive damage. As demonstrated by these events, the region is highly prone to natural disasters, and cooperation for disaster prevention and reconstruction is needed to overcome the threats posed by such events.

Increasing Momentum toward a Regional Alliance

Independent countries recognize the advantage of having the same languages and pressing issues to be solved even though they are small. They are striving for regional alliances and tight, integrated relationships. Since 1991, the Secretariat of Integration of Central America (SICA) has attempted to coordinate various activities in various fields. President Vincente Fox of Mexico, who was inaugurated in December 2000, proposed the 'Puebla Panama Plan' which promotes an alliance with Central America in 2001 through comprehensive development by several means of integration from the southern region of Mexico to Panama. This plan has further increased momentum toward an alliance. In the Caribbean, an alliance called the Caribbean Community has been promoted since 1973. Belize (1995) and Haiti (2002) joined the Community and made its activities more vital.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Active Regional Cooperation and Support for South-South Cooperation—Mexico—

Mexico, the country with the largest land area and population in Central America, has seen solid improvement in its status within the international community since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect

and its entry into the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1994. However, the southern part of Mexico is still seriously underdeveloped, and so the country has the important task of promoting integrated development effectively with other neighboring countries in Central America. JICA is promoting south-south cooperation from

Mexico that facilitates the regional development.

Since 2000, in particular, a team of JICA experts has assisted to further development of the institutional capacities of the Mexican Institute for International Cooperation (IMEXCI). In 2001, JICA and IMEXCI implemented a joint study concerning disaster-prevention measures for earthquakes in El Salvador and a possible cooperation in the field of agriculture in Nicaragua. JICA has implemented five third-country training* programs in Mexico, among which is one on "Advanced Electronic Control" that commenced in 2001 to train each country's technicians in the region. In addition, JICA has dispatched third-country experts* on as many as 25 occasions.

The prioritized aid fields for Mexico, which were confirmed during policy consultations between the two governments in November 2001 include support for south-south cooperation, the elimination of income disparities among regions, industrial and regional development, environmental management, and conservation of the natural environment.

Quick Response to Disasters—El Salvador—

In January and February 2001, a series of huge earthquakes hit El Salvador, causing unprecedented damage. JICA promptly dispatched Japan Disaster Relief Teams to the affected areas and then experts on sand erosion and landslide control in fiscal 2001.

In August 2001, JICA dispatched a project confirmation study team to El Salvador while reconstruction was in progress in order to confirm the reactivation of the manufacturing sector, social development, the environment, and support for democratization process as the prioritized aid fields. They also discussed specific needs for cooperation. El Salvador places great importance on SICA which could be the center of regional cooperation to promote effective development. JICA also dispatches experts to the general secretariat of the organization. In addition, a detailed design study is being implemented for an ODA loan project in regard to development of the La Union Port, which is expected to help stimulate economic activity in the underdeveloped eastern border area and surrounding countries.

Reconstruction of the Poorest Country in Central America—Nicaragua—

Nicaragua has the lowest per capita income in Central America, and a large proportion of its population is living in

poverty. In 2001, like other heavily indebted countries, Nicaragua completed the formulation of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper* (PRSP) with public participation and is seeking further cooperation from the international community.

In 2001, with the objective of enhancing national capacities for disaster prevention, JICA commenced the Vulnerability Diagnosis and Road Disaster Prevention Plan for Disasters in the Main Highway Network (development study). JICA also examines possible cooperation in the areas of cattle-breeding and agriculture, which can lead to greater economic vitality.

Cooperation for National Reconciliation —Guatemala—

In Guatemala, since the signing of the peace accords between the Guatemalan government and La Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca in December 1996, efforts have been made for the recovery and development of democratic governance. There are many problems to address, including improvements in the harsh environmental surroundings and security for the people living in the mountainous areas, and the promotion of ethnic reconciliation.

In the field of education, JICA has supported the extension of elementary education to girls of indigenous descent and implemented a study for the new expansion of this plan in fiscal 2001. In health care, JICA experts and JOCVs have been sent to promote measures for the prevention of infectious diseases such as Chagas disease which has been prevalent among impoverished households. The results of these activities have been encouraging. In 2001, along with the establishment of countermeasures in Guatemala, JICA conducted a feasibility study to examine the project that will extend these measures to neighboring countries. Also in 2002, a basic health care study was implemented to look into possible cooperation in the field of regional health care.

Assistance in Many Fields—Honduras—

After Nicaragua and Haiti, Honduras is one of the least developed countries in the region. Since the country has extensive development needs, partly due to massive damage caused by recent hurricane, Japan is providing various assistance.

A major task is the execution of specific measures based on PRSP that was formulated through the ownership* of Honduras in 2001 so that aid can be more effectively utilized in the region from now on. Coordination among individual

donors* and international agencies involved in this task will become more and more important.

In 2001, JICA expanded cooperation in the field of elementary education through the dispatch of long-term experts and JOCVs. Also, in the agricultural sector, which is the country's basic industry, new long-term experts were dispatched in order to examine improvements in circulation of products. In addition, as the importance of presenting successful cases in the development of impoverished regions has been pointed out, JICA is examining the possible implementation of cooperation projects which integrate various activities in various fields.

Unique Efforts Leading the Region —Costa Rica—

Costa Rica has relatively high educational standards and a well-organized social security system. It is recognized as one of the most stable democratic countries in Central America. JICA's cooperation to the country is focused on implementation of the projects that can have a positive impact on the surrounding countries.

The Technical Instructor and Personnel Training Center for Industrial Development of Central America commenced the Project on Productivity Improvement for Enterprises (project-type technical cooperation) in January 2001. Through the assistance to add more values to the services provided by the Center, such as enhancement of the Center's consulting capacities for enterprises, it formed a framework for Japanese cooperation in the business field in Central America. In addition, through the Effective Treatment Measures to Facilitate the Reinsertion of Inmates into the Society (third-country training), Costa Rica is building on its unique status as a leading provider of cooperation in the region, as well as being a recipient of Japanese cooperation.

Wide-ranging Development Required for Maritime Nation—Panama—

The year 1999 was a momentous one for Panama, with a change in regime and the return of the Panama Canal by the United States.

In Panama, environmental conservation including forests that leads to the preservation of the water sources of the canal is an important issue, and in response the Panama Canal Watershed Conservation Project (project-type technical cooperation) was commenced in 2000. In addition, focusing on

growth in the service industry taking advantage of its unique status in marine transportation in the world and the development of impoverished rural villages, individual experts are dispatched in the following fields: economic development policy, management and administration of harbors, and enhancement of institutional capacities of farmers' organization.

Moreover, the Coordination Center for Natural Disasters Prevention in Central America has been set up in Panama, as a base for the enhancement of disaster prevention system in Central America. As a cooperation to the Central American region, JICA dispatched to the Center individual experts in the disaster prevention training plan and disaster prevention map information system in fiscal 2001.

Support on a Regional Basis for Common Issues —The Caribbean—

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

It is effective to assist the Caribbean region, which has many small nations with great similarity, on a regional basis in connection with common development issues, employing the resources of regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM). A typical example involves JICA's response to destruction caused by recent hurricanes. In preparation for the implementation of the project titled Caribbean Disaster Management (project-type technical cooperation), a study team was dispatched in 2001 to examine the details of the expansion of cooperation for the Caribbean organization for disaster prevention.

In Japan, region-specific training courses were carried out on promotion of trade and tourism for this region. In the field of fishery which has a high potential for development, in addition to country-specific support, in 2001 JICA commenced a cooperation project called Promotion of Sustainable Marine Fisheries Resource Utilization (project-type technical cooperation), which could broadly benefit the region. An expert in regional development plans has been dispatched to CARICOM to study common cooperation needs in the region and examine the directions of future cooperation.

Jamaica has the largest population among the English-speaking Caribbean countries, and the relationship between

Japan and Jamaica has been growing closer. JICA is pouring its efforts into the Project for Strengthening of Health Care in the Southern Region, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Improvement Project at Technical High Schools (project-type technical cooperation) and the dispatch of JOCVs.

There are many immigrants from Japan in the Dominican Republic. Wishing to realize wide-ranging development with the active participation of Japanese immigrants and descendants, JICA is providing cooperation, particularly in the fields of agriculture, education, and health and medical care. JICA conducted a project confirmation study to identify suitable directions for medium-term cooperation, such as development

issues to be tackled, in line with prioritized aid fields. In the field of agriculture, on which JICA has focused, the Study on the Integrated Rural Development of Former Sugarcane Plantation Area (development study) and the Technology Improvement Project for Irrigated Agriculture (project-type technical cooperation) have been implemented. Regarding the environmental field, JICA's cooperation is expanding, as seen in the Master Plan Study on Watershed Management in the Upper Area of the Sabana Yegua Dam and the Improvement of Sewage System and Environment in the City of Santiago (development study).

Front Line

Transfer of Knowledge and Skills on Training Methods to Help Children with Autism Achieve Independent Lives

Honduras

Japan's NGO Provides Support for Autistic Children

JICA Grassroots Partnership Program

◆ A letter from a JOCV OB

The JICA Grassroots Partnership Program*, Transfer of Knowledge and Training Methods to Help Children with Autism Achieve Independent Living, was jointly launched by the Japan League on Intellectual Disabilities, a Japanese NGO, and JICA in fiscal 2001 based on a letter that had been addressed to the NGO from a former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) now living and working in Honduras, who is also a member of an NGO in Honduras, Asociación Hondureña De Apoyo Autista.

Autism is a congenital anomaly whose cause is unknown and which occurs at a consistent rate within a given population. It is a serious mental disability that requires a unique form of training early in life and lifetime support system. However, due to a lack of understanding throughout society and lack of training skills, the situation surrounding autistic children and their guardians is very severe in Honduras.

◆ First seminar taught by foreign lecturers

This project aims to establish a training method suitable for situations

in Honduras through the preparation and translation of training manuals, the introduction of training equipment, and seminars. As part of the partnership program, a five-day seminar on transfer of knowledge and skills on training methods was held in Tegucigalpa, the capital, in January 2002 under the cooperation of the Japan League on Intellectual Disabilities and Asociación Hondureña De Apoyo Autista.

Approximately 120 trainers, educators, and guardians of autistic children participated in the seminar. University professors in Japan and Costa Rican participated in JICA's former training were invited as lecturers from abroad. It was the first occasion that the participants have ever been exposed to advanced training methods from overseas. It turned out to be a significant event for the people involved in the project, since they had only been able to receive limited information.

◆ Many issues to be addressed

The issues that need to be addressed include transfer of knowledge and skills on training methods which are made appropriate for Honduras and the continuance of



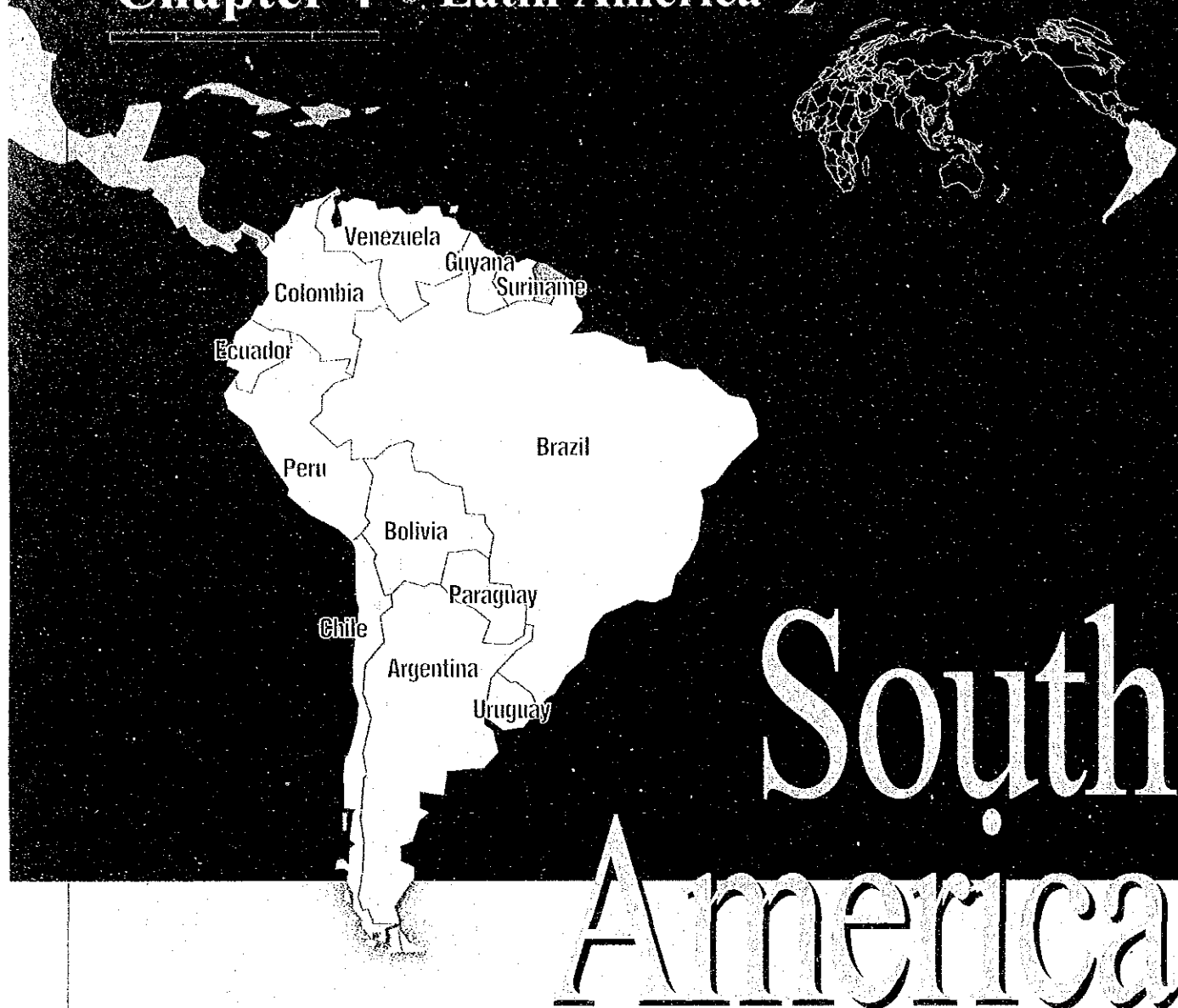
Transfer of training methods for autistic children

human capacity building through outreach activities by parents who participated in the seminar. In addition, it is important to establish a support system and secure a place to live and work for autistic children.

Although support for autistic children has just begun in Honduras, the people involved are expecting to have great results from the project and an expansion of activities in the future. As one participant said, "We believe that autistic children, who are quiet angels of God, will open their heart thanks to Japan's valuable international cooperation and, as a result, contribute to society."

(JICA Honduras Office)

Chapter 4 • Latin America 2



South America

Pillars of Aid Promoting South-South Cooperation and Utilizing Japanese Emigrants

South America contains Argentina and Brazil, which have high levels of development and medium to high ratings by the Development Assistance Committee* (DAC). Nevertheless, due to worsening deforestation of the Amazon rain forest, and increasing air and water pollution in major cities, environmental conservation is considered an important aid field in these countries. Japan is actively supporting south-south cooperation* in the region following the conclusion of Partnership Program* agreements with Argentina, Brazil and Chile. These agreements will serve as a basis for cooperation with Latin America and

the Portuguese-speaking nations of Africa.

On the other hand, in those countries with low indicators of social development, such as Bolivia and Paraguay, improvements in health and medical care, agricultural development, and the development of infrastructure* are priority issues. In addition, even in medium or high income countries, there exist wide imbalances in income and wealth from region to region, and support for the underprivileged and local development are common issues for South Americans.

This region has a large number of Japanese emigrants. JICA is actively promoting

the acceptance of participants from this community for training in Japan, as well as improvements in economic and social infrastructure that benefits ethnic Japanese society. JICA is also promoting the involvement of ethnic Japanese researchers and engineers in south-south cooperation.

In recent years there has been a conspicuous move toward regional economic unification, as evident in MERCOSUR*. JICA is planning and providing cooperation designed to support this development.

Current State of Development

Countries Closely Related to Japan

Comprising 12 countries, South America covers an area of 17.72 million km², or roughly 13% of the world's surface. It has a population of 310 million (or around 5% of the world's population). The region has high agricultural production capabilities and rich underground resources.

Japanese emigration to South America has a long history. Many people of Japanese descent, both permanent and temporary residents, live in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Peru. Ever since diplomatic relations were first established with

Peru in 1873, Japan has maintained close links with South America partly because of the presence of Japanese emigrants. There has been a constant exchange of prominent people between the two, and many Japanese companies have extended business activities into the region.

Vulnerable Economies

During the 1960s and 1970s, many countries in South America attempted to modernize by borrowing funds from

Front Line Production Activities Using Natural Resources in Rural Areas

Brazil

Japanese Paper Made from Tropical Plants in the Amazon

Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts

◆ Japanese paper-making using plant fibers in the Amazon

A Japanese paper craftsman who lives in Minamata City, Kumamoto Prefecture, was dispatched to Belem City, which is located at the mouth of the Amazon River, for four months. He conducted technical guidance for making paper using indigenous natural fibers. The expert was dispatched to POEMA, a local NGO that supports poverty reduction activities through the making of environmentally friendly and innovative products such as car cushions made from natural fibers.

The dispatch originated with a manager of POEMA who visited Japan and toured traditional Japanese paper-making facilities as a JICA training participant. He requested cooperation in making Japanese paper using various natural fibers found in the Amazon, and an expert was dispatched.

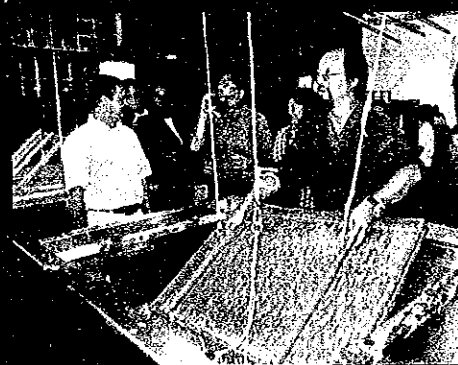
The expert's initial task was to create a Japanese papercraft center. In the building, POEMA installed machines for mincing fibers, pans and gas lines for boil water, tools for beating and flatten-

ing the boiled fiber, a tank for soaking, and frames.

◆ Winning an excellence award

After the crafts center was completed, the expert visited many places to study the diversity of plant fibers and prototype Japanese color paper using natural dyes. In the workshop conducted during the latter half of his activities, participants used the Japanese paper to produce lamp shades, wall decorations, and screens by combining Japanese traditional culture with the sensibility of the Amazon. Their works were shown to local residents at a party held to introduce the crafts center.

Soon afterwards, at an international cooperation exhibition held in Rio de Janeiro, POEMA and JICA jointly exhibited the fruits of their activities concerning environmental conservation and livelihood improvement, introducing the Amazon-Japanese paper project. This joint exhibit was an eye-catching display commended as the best at the exhibition.



An expert teaches Japanese paper-making.

The dispatched expert originally became a Japanese paper craftsman to create opportunities for people who could not find employment because they suffered from Minamata disease. At one point he noticed that one of the Brazilians studying Japanese paper-making was missing a finger, which made it difficult for him to hold the large frame. He consulted a Japanese doctor to see about making an artificial finger for him. Even after returning home, the expert and POEMA staff are in frequent contact by e-mail.

(JICA Regional Development III, Latin America and the Caribbean)

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 an increase in inflation, and they found it difficult to repay their loans because of a drop in the prices of primary products and a rise in international interest rates. Thus, the economies of many South American countries faced a crisis.

This led to the creation of a debt reduction agreement in 1993 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 International Monetary Funds (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 of recovery during the 1990s, and South America has now become one of the main centers of world growth.

Since the early 1990s, moves toward regional economic integration have been picking up, as seen in the Mercado Común del Sur* (MERCOSUR: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as official members) and the Community of Andean Nations (with Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia as official members). In addition, dialogue is taking place with a view to forming the South American Free Trade Area and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

However, since Argentina experienced an economic crisis at the end of 2001, it can be said that the economic situation of all the countries is still vulnerable.

South America consists of countries with flourishing primary industries underpinned by rich natural resources, and in countries such as Brazil and Argentina industrialization is



Analysis work at the Chile Environment Center

already well advanced. Many are classified by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as medium-to-high income countries. However, there are several, like Bolivia, where the income level is low and social infrastructure is still inadequately developed.

But even in the middle-income countries, there are major problems of poverty arising out of income disparities within the individual countries, and against this backdrop many are also affected by the drug trade and deteriorating safety. The increase of criminal activities in urban areas caused by the influx of impoverished people, drug-related crime, terrorism, and development of an underground economy are hampering stable politics, economics, and society throughout South America.

South America is a treasure trove of ecosystems, most notably the Amazon 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 due to a concentration of population.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Cooperation with Environmental Conservation

Japan is providing project-type technical cooperation to support conservation of the Amazon rain forest, an issue that is currently attracting international interest. We are also planning to provide cooperation for conservation of the precious ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands.

In addition we are providing project-type technical cooperation in connection with air and water pollution, waste disposal and other problems in major cities such as Sao Paulo in Brazil

and Santiago in Chile, and with the problems of mining pollution, which is a by-product of mining the rich mineral resources of the region.

In view of the serious damage caused by the ozone hole in the southern part of South America in recent years, we are also planning to help strengthen observations of the ozone layer, impact studies of ultraviolet rays, and the replacement of ozone depleting substances.

Eradicating Poverty and Rectifying Regional Disparities

People living in the mountainous regions of the Andes that stretch through Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia exist in conditions of extreme poverty, which affects mainly indigenous people. The flow 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 has provided Bolivia with grant aid and project-type technical cooperation with an emphasis on health and medical care. In recent years, under the least among less developed countries* (LLDC) support initiative led by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Japan is actively providing cooperation on health and medical care, education and the development of infrastructure, based on the Poverty

Reduction Strategy Paper* (PRSP) formulated by the government of Bolivia, and in cooperation with other donors* (donor countries and agencies).

JICA is implementing a Community Empowerment Program* project that focuses on occupational training for women in the Lima metropolitan district of Peru, and is conducting a development study for participatory rural development in the southern portion of Ecuador. JICA plans to start the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to Venezuela in order to strengthen social development.

In addition, Argentina and Brazil, although both are rated as medium-to-high income countries, need cooperation in the northern part and northeastern part, respectively, for impoverished areas suffering from significant regional income disparities.

Front Line Support Project to Encourage Resident Participation in Education

Bolivia

Residents Tackle Education Reform

Community Empowerment Program

◆ Changing resident awareness

The Support Project to Encourage Resident Participation in Education is implemented in a collaboration of three parties—an NGO called CENDA (Centro de Comunicación y Desarrollo Andino), based in Cochabamba Prefecture, the Bolivian Ministry of Education, and JICA—to support resident participation in education. The project is carried out in Morochata Area, which is located 3.5 hours from Bolivia's third largest city, Cochabamba.

For a long time, resident participation involved helping teachers in the form of carrying out repairs to the schoolhouse or taking care of the teachers themselves. However, the educational reform that took place in 1994 required vast changes in resident awareness, which means that residents participate in school management such as supervising teaching conditions. The Ministry of Education had schools organize school committees (equivalent to PTAs in Japan) and trained them, but they haven't accomplished much since then. As a result, this project was created.

Based on the idea that the motivation of residents is indispensable, CENDA, which has a great deal of experience in resident participation activities, provides training in a participatory manner and develops the training materials jointly with the residents according to their demands. A single illustration will lead to numerous discussions before reaching a consensus.

◆ Overcoming difficulties

On one side, there are difficulties in carrying out cooperation jointly with the government and an NGO. Due to a policy shift within the Ministry of Education, activities for the project were postponed and CENDA's criticism of the ministry intensified at one point. Moreover, even the Ministry of Education suspected that CENDA opposed the educational reforms. Although many problems emerged due to differences in points of view, through mutual efforts towards the same goal, they were finally able to find a solution and deepen their relationship.

Among the people who are targeted



The CENDA project is taken up in the agenda at a meeting of the residents' association.

by the project, there are many who distrust the government. A new aid form to support government agency reforms in collaboration with an NGO that is trusted by the people of the region is being sought.

One year after the commencement of the project, the number of women who are participating in the training, which was initially close to zero, has increased. All the members, not just the PTA, have enthusiastically participated in the training program to improve education themselves.

(JICA Bolivia Office)

Promotion of Environment-friendly Agriculture

South America, and in particular Brazil's Cerrado and Argentina's La Pampa, have rich farm land that makes them granaries of the world. Japan previously provided cooperation aimed at increasing agricultural production in this region, and as a result of these efforts, soy beans and corn produced there are contributing significantly to the stable supply of food throughout the world. 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.

Japan is also actively cooperating with Paraguay, which is lagging behind the other countries in regional economic integration (MERCOSUR), and with Bolivia, which is among the poorest countries of the world, in improving manufacturing technologies for agricultural products and distribution systems, with a view to increasing their agricultural competitiveness.

Strengthening the International Competitiveness of Industrial Products

A feature of South America is the presence of many countries, such as Argentina and Brazil, which have already undergone a process of industrialization earlier in their histories. However, the trend over recent years toward globalization of economies and regional economic integration has meant that strengthening 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) to improve quality control and enhance productivity. In Brazil and Paraguay, JICA is providing project-type technical cooperation to foster technicians in industrial fields.

Partnership Programs

Chile and Brazil, both 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: Argentina, Brazil, and Chile have now concluded bilateral Partnership Program agreements with Japan to work as equal partners in

cooperating with other developing countries.

As examples of activities under these partnership programs, JICA is providing cooperation with Chile that combines third-country training and dispatch of third-country experts* in the areas of agricultural and stock farming hygiene in Bolivia and fisheries in Cuba. Also, in partnership with Brazil, JICA is providing cooperation in the fields of health and medical care and agriculture for the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa, such as Angola and Mozambique. In partnership with Argentina, JICA plans to provide cooperation in the fields of animal quarantine for Paraguay and aquaculture for Bolivia.

Support for Ethnic Japanese Communities and the Utilization 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 Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Peru. Their activities have contributed significantly to the development of their adopted countries and to the shaping of the image of Japan held by their compatriots.

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

Cooperation and Collaboration with Local Authorities

Partly due to the existence of many Japanese immigrants in South America, active exchange between local communities in Japan and those in South American countries has been carried out. Against this backdrop, JICA is actively promoting cooperation with local Japanese authorities as part of its efforts to promote programs that involve public participation. In Peru, JICA is providing cooperation for the transfer of "Nanbu Tekki" (Nanbu Ironware) skills in collaboration with Iwate Prefecture, and with Gunma Prefecture, JICA is planning to provide cooperation in forest conservation and environment education utilizing the Amazon-Gunma Forest owned by the Association of People from Gunma Prefecture in North Brazil (Kita-Brazil Gunma Kenjin-kai).

Chapter 5 • Oceania



Pillars of Aid Economic Independence and Environment Preservation Required for Island Countries with Small Populations

The main issues facing Oceania are economic independence, environmental protection and resources management, education and health care.

For economic independence, it is necessary to improve ports, airports and roads. Therefore JICA is carrying out cooperation on these kinds of economic infrastructure*. In addition, the natural environment (coral reefs, etc.) and the main industries of tourism and fishing

are closely related. Thus, sustainable development* that satisfies both the preservation of the environment and advancement of industry is required.

Furthermore, in these countries, which have small populations and no large industries, the improvement of education to foster human resources will advance national development. In this context, JICA is implementing cooperation in the fields of education and vocational

training.

Infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis are also serious issues. On the other hand, lifestyle-related diseases caused by changing dietary habits are taking on greater significance. To address these issues, JICA plans to promote cooperation in the field of health care from the viewpoint of preventative medicine.

Current State of Development

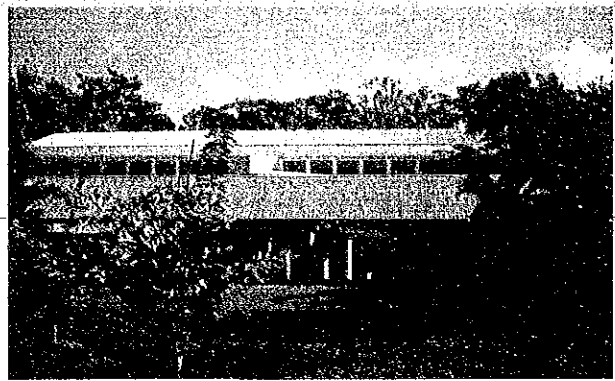
Economy Reliant on Former Sovereign Nations

The individual island nations of Oceania have small national territories, populations, and economies on the whole. The main feature of their economic structure is a strong dependency on primary industries. This structure is a fragile one that is easily upset by weather conditions and fluctuations in international prices. Many problems remain to be tackled if these countries are to achieve any degree of economic autonomy. These problems are related to the fact that the countries themselves often consist of large numbers of islands, the small size of their domestic markets, and the inadequacies of transportation and communication links to compensate for these disadvantages.

Relations between these countries with their former sovereign powers are generally close, but in recent years, growth in bilateral aid* and multilateral aid* to developing countries in Oceania has also remained stagnant. Following achievement of independence from the United States, the three nations of Micronesia have been receiving financial aid in the form of "compact money" based on the Compact of Free Association with the United States, which accounts for between 50 and 70% of government revenues.

A Comprehensive Approach is Essential

Against this backdrop, establishing economies that are no



South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Training Center in Samoa

longer reliant on aid is an important issue for this region. There are many issues that affect Oceania as whole: environmental problems, including climatic change and rising sea levels; and the development of inter-island transportation and communication. It is therefore essential to adopt a comprehensive approach to the region. Every country in the region places emphasis on the reduction of public sectors, promotion of public investment leading to development in the main industries of agriculture, fishery, tourism, and promotion of regional cooperation which jointly addresses common issues.

In April 2000, the second Japan-South Pacific Forum (currently known as the Pacific Island States Forum) Summit (Pacific-Islands Summit) was held in Miyazaki City. At the summit, heads of states discussed such issues as the sustainable development of island states, environmental issues such as climate change and rising sea levels and the digital divide*, and they agreed on the construction of a comprehensive partnership and cooperation and on the basic directions for work in priority areas. These issues should be addressed on a mid-term basis in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and JICA is planning to formulate and implement aid taking full consideration of the results of the summit.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Two Priority Issues in Common

Every country in Oceania differs in respect of its geographic and economic size, ethnic composition, population, availability of natural resources, traditional social foundations, way of life, and the capacity of government to formulate and administer development plans. Finely tailored aid in line with the specific development needs of each country is therefore required. However, since all these countries gained their independence relatively recently and are dependent on primary industries, they do clearly have some points in common, such as the need for human resources development. In addition, it is important to provide support that enables these countries to overcome the

limiting factors that distinguish insular nations (i.e., isolation, small size, and fragility).

There are two priority issues that affect virtually all the countries in this region, the first of which is support for economic self-reliance, and the second is environmental conservation and the appropriate management of resources for sustainable development. Efforts are needed to identify and formulate effective cooperation projects that will bring benefits to the region as a whole. At the same time, it is necessary to work closely with other donors* (donor countries and agencies) that possess knowledge of island nations and international organizations active in the region.

Support for Economic Autonomy

As regards support for economic autonomy, personnel training for nation-building must be combined effectively with upgrading infrastructure for the development of basic institutions.

Cooperation with personnel training is being regularly provided through the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and the acceptance of training participants with a view to creating a body of qualified people to work in economic management and other leading industrial fields. Grant aid is also going toward improvements and expansion at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology and the National University of Samoa in combination with technical cooperation linked with the grant aid projects.

In addition, the development of human resources in the field of information technology (IT) is another future agenda from the viewpoint of closing the digital divide.

From the standpoint of upgrading the bases for key industrial development, infrastructure improvement is occurring in the fields of communications and broadcasting, transportation, and electric power and roads, so as to reflect the needs of island nations. Cooperation is also occurring with emphasis on fishing, marine transportation, and marine resource development in connection with fish breeding, promotion of the small-scale fishing industry, compilation of marine charts, shipping inspections, and exploration of seabed mineral resources.

Environmental Conservation and Appropriate Management of Resources

In terms of environmental conservation and appropriate management of resources to enable sustainable development, JICA aims cooperation directly at environmental conservation measures, such as preservation of coral reefs and waste man-

Front Line

Enforcement of Education System for Lifestyle-related Disease Management

Micronesia

Implementing Health Checkups for the Prevention of Lifestyle-related Diseases

Senior Volunteers

◆ Rapid increase in lifestyle-related diseases

Micronesia received a senior volunteer for the first time in April 2001. The dispatch of JOCVs had been going on for more than 10 years and volunteers in health and medical care were dispatched. The senior volunteer was dispatched in response to a request for experienced nurses who can conduct monitoring visits and instruct health staff so that the health education system and health education program will be enhanced to provide better health education.

40 to 50 years ago, people in Micronesia were leading a self-sufficient lifestyle. Their staple food was roasted breadfruit, yams, and taros. They would row out into the sea by canoe to catch fish, which was served raw or boiled in coconut milk. They drank coconut juice. Houses were made with Pandanus leaves by hand, and islanders wearing only grass skirts were never obese. They were free from lifestyle-related diseases.

At present, however, westernized

lifestyles have extended to even the smallest isolated islands, so suggesting "Let's eat local foods" will not return the situation to traditional ways. Along with the rapid increase in obesity, lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, etc., are increasing.

◆ Large-scale health checkups on World Diabetes Day

On World Diabetes Day, November 14, 2001, physical examinations for lifestyle-related diseases were implemented for workers in Palikir, the capital, and Colonia. About 700 individuals took the examination. Besides learning about early detection and treatment of illnesses, the staff experienced first-hand that a physical examination presents a great health education opportunity to understand current health conditions. Having expanded the health checkup program, the physical examinations have continued in the surrounding regions and remote islands. In these regions, there are even some individu-



Health checkups in Micronesia

als who have had their blood pressure, weight, and height measured for the first time. Among those who came to participate, some elderly persons said politely in Japanese, "Welcome and thank you for coming." They talked excitedly about old times.

While being instructed by the kind-hearted islanders on how to live in harmony with nature, the senior volunteer is actively conducting daily health education activities to prevent lifestyle-related diseases and enhance the management system.

(JICA/JOCV Micronesia Office)

agement, to deal with such issues as the decay of seashore ecosystems, the indiscriminate catching of certain types of fish, the felling of tropical forests, and improper handling of wastes. One example of cooperation in this area is the Palau International Coral Reef Center (a Japan-U.S. Common Agenda* project), which was finished with Japanese grant aid in 2000. The center is expected to become an international base for coral reef preservation and research, and diverse technical cooperation activities are underway, including selection of points for long-term monitoring, building of an aquarium to be established next to the center, and implementation of educational activities.

Expanding Results through Cooperation and Linkage with Other Organizations

An example of cooperation that has benefited the region as a whole is a grant aid project being implemented for the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, which is a base for higher education in Oceania, involving the provision of facilities

for remote education that makes use of marine research facilities and satellites (a joint project with New Zealand and Australia). Other examples of such cooperation conducted through international organizations active in the region include grant aid to the educational and training center of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) headquarters and region-wide technical cooperation for the proper management of wastes.

In addition, JICA is carrying out cooperation in Oceania and establishing links with other aid bodies and international organizations. In Fiji, JICA and Australia implemented a joint project to disseminate knowledge on health care from 1996 to 1998. This was the first joint aid activity carried out by the two sides. In Papua New Guinea, JICA has cooperated with Australia in a number of fields, including subterranean structural analysis of the Rabaul volcano aimed at reducing damage caused by volcanic eruptions, expanded preventative vaccination and maternal and child care. The two sides are currently starting an aid coordination process connected with the sector program* approach in the health care sector.

Front Line Training in Rice Farming Technology

Papua New Guinea

Providing Farmers with Training in Rice Farming Technology through Linkage with an NGO

Community Empowerment Program

◆ Training focused on practical skills

Training in rice farming technology is implemented in collaboration with an NGO, OISCA Rabaul, which conducts agricultural training for young people in the region. OISCA Rabaul, which has been engaged in rice farming assistance for many years, not only employs a technical staff with rice farming experience, but also runs training fields for rice farming.

The training program is intended for farm leaders in the rice-promotion provinces. During the one-month training period, training participants stay in dormitories as they take practical training courses and lectures. The training course covers many topics, from seed selection to pest control, harvest, and storage. Mastering these technologies makes it possible to conduct actual rice

farming cultivation. The participants are expected to take leadership positions to promote the technology in the region after the training.

◆ Follow-up cultivation instruction after training

The farmers who complete the one-month training program return to their respective villages and begin rice cultivation according to what they have learned. Then, when the rice begins to grow, OISCA Rabaul's technical staff and JICA experts jointly visit the farmers to offer technical guidance. Presently, 32 farmers have completed the training program and all of them have actually begun producing crops in the rice paddies that they developed on their own. The healthy growth of the rice plants demonstrates the effectiveness of the training program.



Leaders who take rice farming technology training

In training participants' home areas, the number of farmers who start rice farming is on the rise, and the crop area is also rapidly expanding. There is hope that these farmers will become key players in rice farming development in the region and thus contribute to regional growth and development.

(JICA Papua New Guinea Office)

Chapter 6 • Europe



Pillars of Aid A Need for Stronger Country-specific Approaches

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 the introduction of a market economy (economic policy, productivity enhancement, business management, etc.)
- 2) Environmental problems (air pollution, waste disposal, etc.)
- 3) Rehabilitation of economic infrastructure*

In the Medium-Term Policy on 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 common development topics

mentioned above, we will need to strengthen our country-specific approaches in priority fields that are in line with the varying direction and pace of development in each country.

Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, and Poland are relatively well advanced on the path to development and are set to join the EU by 2004. Aid to these countries is focusing on the transfer of industrial technology and expertise and measures to deal with industrial environments.

On the other hand, in countries such as Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, and Romania, where reform is delayed or has not

been undertaken due to conflict, emphasis is also placed on traditional forms of economic and social development cooperation. This involves upgrading economic infrastructure, agricultural development, providing medical care, and improving the water supply and sewerage facilities.

Several countries including 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.

Current State of Development

Support for Democratization and Socioeconomic Reform

After World War II, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe had communist regimes that were essentially satellites of the former Soviet Union. Human rights and environmental problems became serious matters of concern under their centrally planned economic systems. Under these circumstances, in the 1980s, the inefficiency of economic management under such systems led to an economic collapse.

In 1989, Poland and Hungary led the way from communism by introducing market economies. They were joined by other countries in democratization and economic and social reform.

The industrialized nations welcomed these reform efforts in democratization and market economies and decided to provide support within a framework presented at a July 1989 meeting of the Group of 24 to coordinate assistance for Central and Eastern Europe. The G24 group includes the 15 members of the European Union (EU), and international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

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 and Slovakia (two countries that formed Czechoslovakia when aid was commenced in 1991), Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), Slovenia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Yugoslavia. Support on an ODA basis was provided for the first time in 1997 to Moldova and Ukraine, which were part of the former Soviet Union.

Importance of Ascertaining Economic Situations and Aid Needs

Now that more than a decade has elapsed since the collapse of the socialist system, clear differences have emerged among those countries in terms of transition to a market economy and the results of economic and social reform.

Several countries such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland are progressing smoothly toward reform. These countries have joined the OECD and will shortly be entering the EU. In contrast, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine are still experiencing problems in reconstructing their economies and industrial bases. These problems are concerned not only with economic management: these nations are also witnessing increasingly serious social trends toward growth in the number of poor people and decline in level of medical care.

The countries of the Balkan region, including those that made up the former Yugoslavia and Albania, are not immune to the economic impact induced by the breakup of the Yugoslav federation in the 1990s. As evident in the Kosovo crisis, many destabilizing factors such as civil wars and ethnic problems remain, and political stability and economic rehabilitation and development are important goals 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 provide effective aid utilizing Japan's superior technology while paying attention to trends and results with support from EU and other aid agencies.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Cooperation Based on the Perception of Distinctive Features

Support for the market economy is one of the priority issues for aid to Central and Eastern Europe. This covers a broad range of cooperation 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 operate the new economic systems and industries and the transfer of technology and expertise.

In Hungary, JICA provided cooperation until 1999 that involved quality control, factory improvement, and staffing and labor improvements at the Hungary Productivity Center.

In fiscal 2000, the center began to offer third-country training* on business diagnosis, which is scheduled to continue for five years, to disseminate Japan's technical cooperation to neighboring countries.

A feature of these countries that distinguishes them from developing countries in other regions 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 considerable, but thus far largely underutilized, technical capabilities that people in the region possess and the technology that Japan is able to provide. Since the eventual goal of these countries is to join the EU, we need to ensure that Japanese cooperation is fully in accord with the policies, rules and regulations, and legal institutions of the EU. Our task is to plan and implement Japanese cooperation while taking into account these features.

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.

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

As for Yugoslavia, when the G24 meeting was held in 2000, JICA started to provide assistance in reconstruction of the economy and base infrastructure, which had deteriorated under the long-standing economic sanctions in coordination with the international community.

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.

Front Line From Czaniec Village

Poland

Support from a Friend Who Understands

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

◆ He came to a small village

Czaniec is a small village in Poland located 400 km south of Warsaw. In this village there is a judo club, even though many local people have never seen a Japanese person before. This club has many competitive members who practice hard. However, as their families have financial difficulties, many children cannot afford judo uniforms.

A JOCV dispatched to teach physical education had judo uniforms sent from Japan for the children in the club. The children were very pleased and practiced more zealously than ever before.

As the children seem to be curious about Japan, the JOCV often introduces Japanese culture in physical education

classes. Before long, the students started to greet one another in Japanese and remembered Japanese songs.

◆ Appreciation of a friend who understands

However, the volunteer had a hard time dealing with differences of opinion among the students in the class. At times like this, a local friend encouraged the volunteer by saying, "Children are only interested in the whole picture and don't know what to learn yet. Please don't expect to see results now. They surely will become internationally-minded adults. You have made a lasting impression on them." The volunteer realized that the friend understood the kind of work that was involved in international



Interest in Japanese culture

cooperation and was supporting the volunteer. The volunteer felt great appreciation.

Though the strength of one individual may be small, the volunteer who has a friend who understands his work gives him confidence to work hard every day.

(JICA/JOCV Poland Office)

