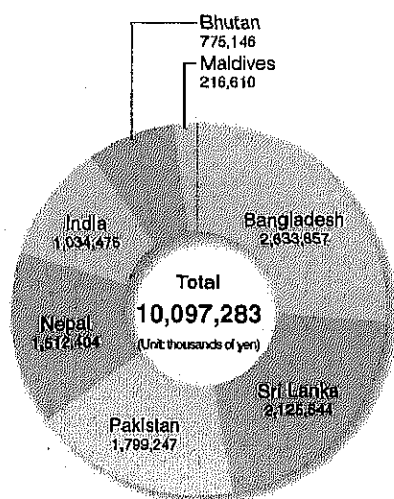


## Southwest Asia

### Pillars of Aid → Poverty Alleviation is the Largest Common Agenda

■ Cooperation results by country (FY 2003)



Southwest Asia has about half of the world's poor population. Although the economy itself is developing, per capita income is still low, and the need for development is very high. Poverty alleviation is the largest common agenda in this region. That is because, in combination with the low economy and income level and diversities in ethnicity, religion, language, and climate, poverty can aggravate political and social instability. To address poverty problems, each national government in Southwest Asia is actively pushing forward deregulation, investment, and export promotion policies for stable development of the economy.

Accordingly, cooperation for poverty alleviation is JICA's basic aid policy for Southwest Asia, and common development issues in the region include: (1) improvement of basic living standards such as health care, education, and water supply systems; (2) agricultural and rural development; (3) response to environmental

problems caused by urbanization and industrialization; (4) promotion of industries centering on small and medium-scale enterprises; (5) support for building social and economic infrastructure\*. With the increasing population, it is necessary to absorb and secure employment in rural areas and create new employment in urban areas for stable development of the society and the economy. At the same time, it is necessary to promote a well-balanced aid approach from both sides: improving basic living standards and developing the economy according to the actual situation of each country in the region.

In addition, in Southwest Asia there are countries that greatly affect the world's peaceful and stable growth (India, Pakistan) as well as areas that are under pressure from issues related to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction (Sri Lanka, Nepal). Contributions to solve these issues are also called for.

## Current State of Development

### ■ Alleviating Mass Poverty

Southwest Asia consists of seven countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It has a population of approximately 1.38 billion, or one-fifth of the global population. Five hundred and sixty million people in the region, around half of the world's poor, are classified as poor.

For the past several years, the economic growth of Southwest Asia, excluding certain countries, has been progressing at about 5% annually. The growth seems comparatively good, but poverty still persists. In the region, factors such as ethnicity, religion, language, and climate are complexly related to politics and society, contributing to social and cultural diversity and depth as well as instability.

In Southwest Asia, cooperation is mainly provided in basic living fields such as health and medical care, agricultural and rural development, and primary education aimed at poverty alleviation; in upgrading the infrastructure to stimulate economic and social activities; and in environmental conservation corresponding to population growth and economic development. Special attention is necessary to make sure that cooperation results reach the socially vulnerable, such as women

and at the grass-roots levels, through aid corresponding to gender\* disparities that are apparent in the literacy rates and to the high death rate related to pregnancy and childbirth as well as joint projects with NGOs.

### ■ Support for Regional Peace and Stability

Following the terrorist attacks that occurred in the US on September 11, 2001, JICA has assisted Afghanistan in post-conflict reconstruction and extended support to Pakistan for regional stability. Also, post-conflict reconstruction assistance is under way in Sri Lanka, where peace negotiations are under way between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) following the cease-fire agreement of February 2002.

In January 2004, a top-level meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)\* was held for the first time in two years in Pakistan. It is greatly expected that the tense relationship between Pakistan and India will gradually ease, and that the economic activities of each country in the region will be more stimulated, thus contributing to the stabilization of the region.

## Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

### ■ Effective Aid Reaching Residents—Bangladesh

Bangladesh, with the largest population among Least Developed Countries (LDC)\*, face many problems, such as low educational levels, gender disparities, and deteriorating living environments, although it has achieved a certain amount of economic development.

In Bangladesh, a close collaboration among the Japanese Embassy, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, (JBIC)\* and JICA Office has been built. Rural development, health care, education, arsenic contamination control, and electric power have been selected as the five most important sectors, and organic collaboration for cooperation is being promoted. Working groups composed of members from each organization have been formed for each sector, and they have formulated Sector Programs\* which clarify directions of cooperation and implemented cooperation in collaboration and coordination with other donors\*.

In rural development, the improvement of agricultural productivity, upgrading of infrastructure in rural areas, residents' empowerment\*, and improvement of local adminis-

trative capability are all addressed. In Bangladesh, branch offices of the central government directly provide service to residents. To provide this public service effectively and efficiently to the residents, a model is constructed to establish a link between the residents and the government by organizing the residents. In the district where the cooperation has been provided, administration services have been efficiently provided with transparency and great results, and the expansion of districts for cooperation is now under examination.

### ■ Measures against Poverty, Environmental Conservation, Upgrading Economic Infrastructure—India

India has achieved stable economic development in recent years due to development of IT-related industries. On the other hand, there are problems such as the existence of a massive poverty group, which accounts for as much as one third of the population; environmental deterioration due to the rapid economic development; and domestic economic disparities.

In the election for the House of People in May 2004, the Congress Party became the ruling party and a coalition gov-

ernment was formed with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Taking over the conventional economic liberalization and reform policy, the new administration has announced its key policy to place importance on agricultural and rural development and measures against poverty.

The Japanese government dispatched a policy dialogue mission to India in March 2002 and confirmed that the priority areas of cooperation for India are measures against poverty (health and medical care, rural development), environmental conservation, and upgrading economic infrastructure. With regards to environmental conservation, in particular, contamination of the Ganga River, the sacred river of India, is serious and it is regarded as a national issue. This issue was brought up in the Japan-India summit meeting, and Japan is implementing the Study on Integrated Pollution Abatement and River Basin Management Project for the Ganga Basin. In addition, as the field related to measures against poverty, Japan is continuously providing cooperation and carrying out projects in agricultural and rural development and health and medical care. In fiscal 2004, Japan's country-specific plan for India is going to be formulated to implement more strategic support.

#### ■ Aid Reaching the Poverty Group—Nepal

Nepal has had very difficult conditions both in politics and security for the past few years. Violent acts by antigovernment guerrillas called Maoists have spread not only to rural areas but also to urban areas, and peace negotiations between the government and the Maoists are unlikely to be resumed.

The Nepal Development Forum (NDF) was held in the capital of Kathmandu in May 2004 for the first time in two years, and the government's efforts for reforms under the severe conditions, the 10th five-year plan, implementation progress of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)\*, and harmonization of donors were all discussed there.

Setting poverty reduction as the primary objective of cooperation for Nepal, JICA places emphasis on health care service, primary education, socioeconomic infrastructure devel-



People taking a literacy class provided in cooperation with a NGO (Bangladesh)

opment, agricultural and rural development, environmental conservation, and reconstruction. In fiscal 2004, a study envisioning future cooperation activities in reconstruction support, water supply system development, and health care was conducted. In the governance field, an expert on aid adjustment will be dispatched to the Foreign Aid Adjustment Bureau of the Ministry of Finance, and a cooperation project to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems will commence under the initiative of the National Planning Association. In this way, JICA will support strengthening administrative organizations and improving capacity. In addition, considering the fact that one cause of the conflicts is that the benefits of development were not widely given to the poverty group, approaches such as citizen participation and ensuring transparency to eliminate conflict factors are also being examined.

#### ■ Alleviation of Economic and Regional Disparities and Poverty—Pakistan

In Pakistan, the Musharraf administration, which came to power through a bloodless coup in October 1999, has implemented various reforms to accomplish national reconstruction and democratization. The conservative party supported by President Musharraf and the army became the government party in the general election of October 2002 and in January 2004, President Musharraf acquired a majority in the vote of confidence. Though Prime Minister Jamali resigned in June 2004, these reform and development lines have been followed so far. Since 2002, the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate has reached 5.1% and the Pakistan economy has achieved V-shape recovery from economic stagnation in the 1990s. The current task is how to connect this condition to sustainable social development.

In November 2003, a report of the third Pakistan Country Study Committee, held in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), was completed. The report proposes sustainable social development as the top goal, and places adherence to basic law and order, continuity and consistency of policies, ensuring equality of opportunity, and establishment and enhancement of high social monitoring capability as its basic condition. To achieve such goals and conditions, directions and central issues for regional development that combine both economic and human development were proposed.

In December 2003, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs started formulating the Pakistan country-specific plan, examining the medium- and long-term policies for cooperation for Pakistan in line with the directions specified in the report by the Country Study Committee.

While the above-mentioned medium- and long-term direc-

tions for cooperation of Pakistan are coming out, an ODA Task Force was established and preparation for examining the efficient cooperation for Pakistan among the members of Pakistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, JBIC, JICA, and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) has been completed.

At present, technical cooperation is provided in the fields of good governance\* (improvement of local administration services and support for police reforms), health and medical care (tuberculosis control, EPI/polio control), education (Punjab Literacy Promotion Project), environment (dispatch of experts), economic infrastructure (Balancing and Modernization of Workshop Facilities at PITAC, Lahore), and agriculture (dispatch of experts). For the future, in combination with grant aid and loan assistance\*, Japan will assist the Pakistan government in addressing socioeconomic development, poverty alleviation, economic recovery, the realization of good governance, and the promotion of devolution to local administration.

#### ■ Cooperation for Achieving Peace—Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, for the past 20 years civil conflict has continued. The conflict and terrorism has caused more than 65,000 deaths, as well as more than 800,000 internally dis-



Self-sufficiency diagnosis workshop of rural community carried out by residents themselves (Nepal)

placed persons and many other refugees.

However, in February 2002, the civil conflict was suspended indefinitely, and full-scale peace negotiations began between the parties concerned in September 2002.

In June 2003, the Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development of Sri Lanka was held with participants from 51 countries and 22 international organizations, and the international community demonstrated a uniform commitment to the promotion of the peace process in Sri Lanka.

In 2004, the Sri-Lanka country-specific plan was formulated with two pillars: 1) support for the consolidation of peace and reconstruction; 2) support in line with the medium- and long-term development visions. Based on these pillars, JICA will provide cooperation mainly for human resources development, where JICA has comparative advantage, such as sup-

## Front Line

### ● Bhutan Local Administration Project

#### Learn from Japanese Community-building

Technical Cooperation Project

#### Decentralization in Bhutan

In Bhutan, decentralization has been promoted since 1981. In 2002, based on the revised decentralization-related law, a wide range of authority and functions were transferred from the central government to local governments. In the same year the first local election took place and an institutional framework for decentralization was established. However, the framework is not functionally operable yet and further review of the institution and capacity development of local governments as receivers are urgently required. In response, JICA started a local administration project in cooperation with the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs in March 2004. The project aims to spread the revised decentralization law, improve local administrative ability in a model prefecture, and improve the policy adjustment ability of the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs.

#### Partnership between administration and residents

In April 2004, the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs personnel and the prefectural governor, who play key roles in local administration, were invited to Japan to exchange opinions with local governments who work on innovative community-building and autonomous administration at the town and village levels. In particular, collaboration between the village office and the residents in an environmental and cultural conservation project in Shirakawa Village, Gifu prefecture, a regional resource conservation project lead by residents in Kitaharima, Hyogo prefecture, and information disclosure and administrative evaluation system of Takanezawa Town, Tochigi prefecture, gave them opportunities to see, share knowledge, and discuss problems, and helped them establish a vision in local administration for the Bhutan gov-



Visiting Kitaharima Civil Bureau in Hyogo prefecture

ernment.

In Bhutan, the ratio of the burden of residents in the administration is traditionally high, and long-term and innovative decentralization is promoted under strong ownership\*, so the potential to become a model case of decentralization is clear.

(JICA Bhutan Office)

port for the resettlement of displaced persons, humanitarian support in areas affected by the conflict, and human resources development in the information technology field.

In the implementation of cooperation projects, the balance between areas and ethnicity groups will be considered so that all the people in Sri Lanka can receive the dividend of peace and thus the achievement of peacemaking will be pushed forward.

#### ■ Development for Gross National Happiness—Bhutan

Bhutan is a kingdom with a population of 660,000, located on steep mountains in the eastern part of the Himalayan mountain range. Under a unique development principle declared by the King, Gross National Happiness (GNH), a development plan that will coexist with Bhutan's traditional culture and natural environmental conservation, has been promoted alongside economic growth measured by gross national product (GNP).

Taking this policy of the Bhutan government into consideration, JICA has been implementing cooperation in the major fields of agricultural development and economic infrastructure upgrading (roads, communication, and electricity). Agricultural development is especially important, because agriculture is the major industry in this country, with 80% of the citizens engaged in farming. Japan, with experience in leading successful agricultural development in the western region of Bhutan in the past enjoys a great deal of trust. Currently, Japan has been providing cooperation mainly for rice farming technologies and agricultural road construction in the eastern region, where living conditions are harsh and where most of the poor reside.

In fiscal 2004, a local administration support project started, and cooperation has been provided for the purpose of institution-building in the decentralization reform promoted by the government of Bhutan and capacity development for local governments.

## Front Line

### ● Sri Lanka

## Mannar Prefecture Recovery and Reconstruction Project by Means of Community Approach

### From Humanitarian Emergency Aid to Post-conflict Reconstruction

#### Technical Cooperation Project

#### Joy of returning

"We got back from India a month ago," said a member of a Tamil family. The whole family, who had returned home to Mantai West County, Mannar prefecture in the Northeast Province of Sri Lanka after seven years, were cleaning around the house and planting coconuts and cassava, even the children and the grandmother.

"In the refugee center in India, the children went to the local school, and I earned money to support my family. The happiest thing of all after coming back here is to know that the earth and even a twig on the ground are ours. The first thing we did after returning was cleaning the well of trash and then we even found a human bone there. War is a truly sad and unpleasant thing."

In Sri Lanka the conflict between the majority Sinhalese (74% of the population) and the minority Tamil (18%) is the most serious problem. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) continued their conflict with the government forces for the purpose of separation and independence of the Northeast Province for about 20

years. In February 2002 they agreed on an indefinite cease-fire with the government. About a million refugees and internally displaced persons were generated, and residents live in poor environments devastated by the conflict.

#### Community empowerment

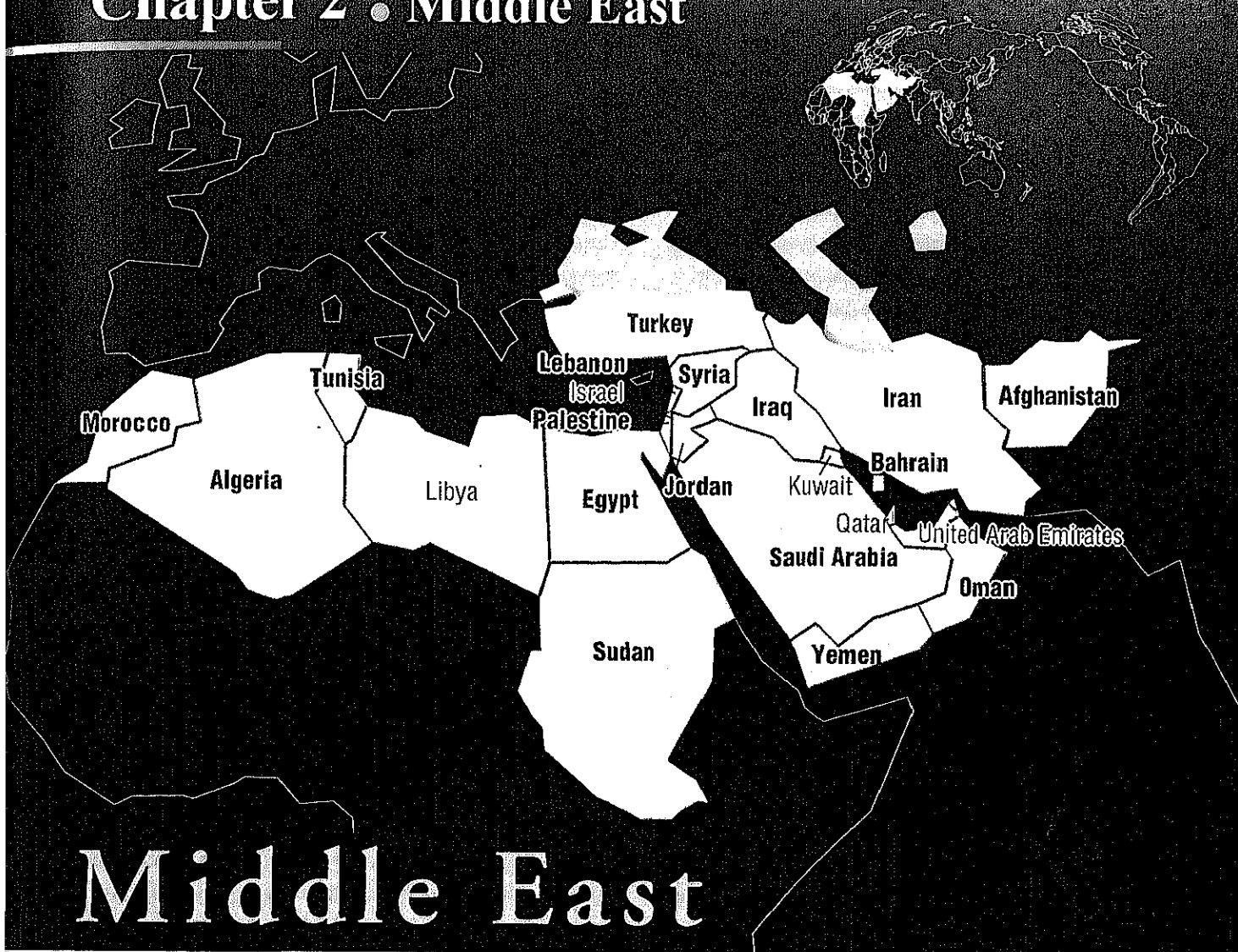
The emergency humanitarian aid for repatriating and rehabilitation into society provided mainly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) must be taken over smoothly using development aid for recovery and reconstruction projects supported by development aid agencies. With the focus on the recovery of the basic infrastructure in the community that is necessary for the recovery of daily life, and the recovery and improvement of capabilities of the community in relation to socioeconomic activities required for sustainable development\*, this project provides indirect support so that residents will be able to plan, implement, manage, and control the recovery and reconstruction project voluntarily and continuously.



Children in class sitting at desks outdoors

The area for cooperation is selected from two counties in Mannar, where residents staying in the community and resettling residents are mixed, and about 50% of the population before the conflict has been recovered or new residential areas are specified. This project supports the independence of the community, and at the same time empowers the community to accept and support the resettlement of refugees in order to promote and facilitate the return and settlement of refugees for the future. More than 40,000 persons are expected to return from outside the prefecture and India.

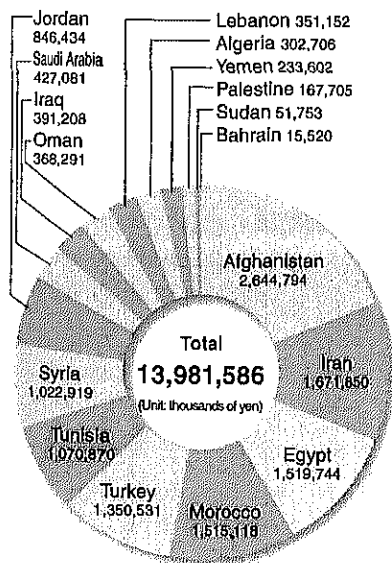
(JICA Sri Lanka Office)



# Middle East

## Pillars of Aid → Middle East Peace Process is the Most Critical Issue

### ■ Cooperation results by country (FY 2003)



The Middle East, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine, has complex problems related to conflicts, which make it difficult to forecast a peaceful and stable future. The region also has a wide range of needs that differ from country to country. Therefore, keeping social stability and peace in the region in mind, JICA extends support to facilitate a smooth transition from post-conflict reconstruction to development support. At the same time JICA actively provides cooperation in various fields of development, in particular the management of water resources, environmental conservation, the promotion of industry, and human resources development.

From the standpoint of supporting the Middle East peace process, which is the region's most critical issue, JICA is providing technical cooperation for Palestine by conducting training courses in the fields of vocational training and enhancement in legislative, judicial, and administrative capacities in Japan and Palestine's neighboring country, Jordan, with support from the government of Jordan.

For Afghanistan, which is being reconstructed after more than 20 years of civil war, JICA has implemented projects in various fields of education promotion, recovery of medical services, empowerment\* of women, and reintegration into society of demobilized soldiers for the purpose of stable security, along with support from the international community.

Post-conflict reconstruction for Iraq is under consideration. For Iraq which is making an effort at new nation-building despite difficulties in security, JICA is creating a reconstruction plan for human resources development in cooperation with neighboring Arabian countries while collecting and adjusting information in neighboring countries.

In Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing countries, JICA supports the economic diversification efforts needed to enable these countries to break free of petroleum-reliant economies. Specifically, cooperation is centered on the training of engineers and technicians.

In countries with relatively high-income levels, such as Tunisia and Turkey, technical cooperation is being provided with an emphasis on human resources development that will lead competitive industries.

On the other hand, JICA provides technical cooperation and grant aid to countries with relatively low-income levels, such as Yemen. Cooperation relates to upgrading and expanding industrial infrastructure\* and satisfying basic human needs (BHN)\* in areas such as health and medical care.

## Current State of Development

### ■ Diverse Political and Economic Backgrounds

The Middle East, which consists of 22 diverse countries, extends over a very large area, 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.

In terms of the economy, the Gulf states and the North African countries are blessed with extensive petroleum and natural gas resources. However, countries such as Yemen and Sudan are classified as least developed countries (LDCs)\* since they lack natural resources and are lagging behind in socioeconomic development.

### ■ Varied Development Conditions

Many countries in the Middle East have rich histories dating far back to before the birth of Christ. They also have varied social and cultural backgrounds.

Since the end of World War II, the region has seen much conflict, including the Middle East war, the Lebanese conflict, the civil war in Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq War, the

Persian Gulf Crisis, the US military attack on Afghanistan, the Palestinian conflict, and the Iraq war. Uncertainties exist in the region, affecting the international economy, global peace and stability. The Middle East is thus a very diverse area, and the development picture it presents is in no way uniform.

For instance, in Afghanistan, the economic and social infrastructure and the basic system of administration were destroyed by the civil war, and no financial foundation is in place. To support reconstruction of a country with such problems effectively, what is required is not only the conventional type of recovery and reconstruction support, but also comprehensive support based on new ideas, including support for the peace process and public security as prerequisites.

Some of 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 human resources to support their nation-building efforts because of their small populations.

In contrast, 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 health and medical care and a safe water supply.

## Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

### ■ Support for Peace in the Middle East

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 (Environment, Regional Economic Development, Water, Arms Control, and Regional Security and Refugees) established at the Multilateral Middle East Peace Negotiations held in 1992 to support the peace process. Japan has also made an active contribution by providing support through international organizations.

Though confrontation between Israel and Palestine has intensified since September 2000, several subsequent events took place in 2003, showing progress in the promotion of peace in the Middle East. These events include approval of a roadmap for bilateral coexistence by both the authorities of Israel and Palestine in June, and a three-month cease-fire

agreement in July. However, armed conflicts did not cool down afterwards, and the tense conditions still continue as the murders of Hamas leaders show.

Under such circumstances, with the policy of providing support according to the progress of a peace process, Japan has implemented Palestine reform assistance towards the nation-building of Palestine. Based on a series of policy framework such as the New Japanese Assistance Package for Restoring and Reforming the Palestinian Authority that was announced by Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi in April 2003, JICA has provided training for Palestinians in such fields as democratization, auditing, financial and administrative operations, judicial system in Japan and Jordan. Keeping the strengthening of the relationship with Arab countries on mind, JICA's assistance will focus on the stability of civil life and improvement of government administrative func-

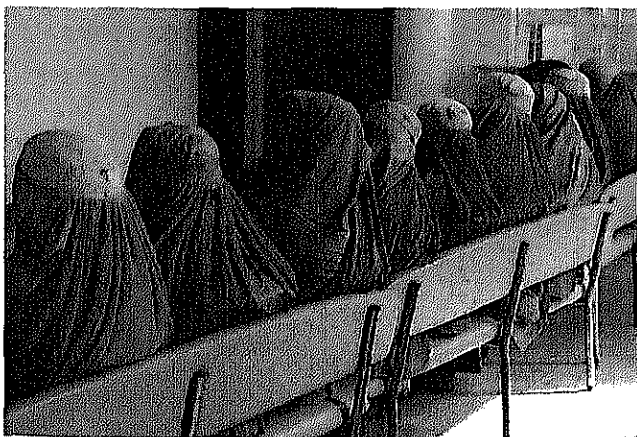
tion. At the same time, JICA will promote the approaches based on the perspective of human security\*.

### ■ Post-conflict Reconstruction for Afghanistan

The reconstruction of Afghanistan, which started in 2002, has made progress on various fronts in the past two years thanks to cooperation from donor\* countries and international organizations. First, the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants, which was the biggest concern for improving public security, commenced in October 2003. Afghanistan's new Constitution was adopted in the Loya Jirga (National Assembly) in January 2004. From the reconstruction aspect, in particular, the urgently required reconstruction of 500km of the main trunk road between Kabul and Kandahar was carried out. With cooperation mainly from Japan and the US, the road is now open to traffic.

In spite of this progress, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delegate reported that "the Human Development Index shows that Afghanistan is the second most underdeveloped country after Sierra Leone," at the International Conference on Afghanistan (the president of JICA, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, attended as the Japanese delegate and co-chaired) held in Berlin at the end of March 2004. At the Berlin conference, donor countries and international organizations pledged 8.2 billion US dollars to support Afghanistan's reconstruction for three years starting in 2004, including a contribution of 400 million US dollars for two years from the Japanese government.

JICA has implemented projects worth about five billion yen for the past two years. Reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure such as roads, schools, and medical facilities were at the heart of these projects. While continuing these reconstruction projects, JICA will implement more projects from which the community will directly benefit in terms of literacy education, infection control centering on tuberculosis, and maternal and child health care. In addition, since Afghanistan is traditionally an agricultural country, coopera-



Women waiting for examinations at the Afghanistan Tuberculosis Center

tion for agricultural development and regional development needs to be strengthened to promote improvement of productivity and creation of employment.

### ■ Contribute to Nation-rebuilding in Iraq

Reconstructing Iraq, which has been debilitated for the past 20 years, as a peaceful and democratic nation, while at the same time securing unified sovereignty and territory, is extremely important to the people of Iraq and to the peace and stability of the Middle East and the international community. Accordingly, Japan has announced support of up to five billion US dollars, including 1.5 billion US dollars in grant aid as emergency support (focusing on reconstruction of basic living conditions for the people of Iraq, such as electricity, education, water and hygiene, health care, employment, as well as improvements in public security), and support of up to 3.5 billion US dollars mostly in the form of yen loans for medium-term reconstruction needs (rebuilding of infrastructure such as telecommunication and transportation is put into proper perspective).

JICA provides training in the medical field in Egypt for Iraqi human resources development in cooperation with Arab countries as well as training in Japan and basic studies for emergency support and medium-term reconstruction needs, thus contributing to human development and nation-building.

### ■ Cooperation in Water Resources

The Middle East is a region with a small amount of renewable water resources and the water resources necessary to support human activities such as agriculture, everyday life, and industry are strictly limited. In the Gulf countries and Jordan, the restriction of agricultural water that accounts for 70 to 80 % of water use makes the food self-sufficiency target difficult to achieve, owing to increased food consumption due to population increases and improvements in income. The high growth rate of the population and increased urbanization it entails leads to an increased need for everyday water. Water intake from the rivers in urban areas and use of underground water do not correspond to these increasing needs, and to make matters worse, it leads to the deterioration of conventional water resources. Therefore a stable water supply and efficient water utilization have become urgent issues.

In response, JICA supports the establishment of the Water Resources Information Center in Syria to promote system-building for data collection and management of water resource information. Dispatch of experts and acceptance of technical training participants are carried out in cooperation for water supply projects in underdeveloped rural areas in Morocco, and technical support for water leakage in Jordan, one of the



countries with the least amount of water resources in the world, to assist each country in addressing its water resources problems.

### ■ Environmental Conservation for a Wide Variety of Needs

The Middle East is characterized by various climate conditions: arid or semiarid areas with extremely little precipitation; the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, where there is high humidity; and North Africa, which has a Mediterranean climate. The progress of urbanization and industrialization also varies from country to country. Therefore, there is a wide range of needs in the environmental field depending on the situation in each country. JICA provides various means of cooperation according to the needs, such as forest protection control in Saudi Arabia and environmental administration capacity-building\* in Jordan.

In many countries in the Middle East, urbanization and industrialization have advanced due to the recent economic development and rapid population increase, generating serious



An expert and counterparts\* work enthusiastically in a practical metalworking training course in Egypt

problems such as air pollution, water contamination, and waste management. To address these problems, JICA provides support by utilizing the past experience of Japan, which has overcome environmental problems by effectively combining the introduction of new regulations, promotion policy, and various advancements in environmental technologies, such as pollution reduction technologies and energy saving technologies.

## Front Line

### ● Afghanistan Vocational Training for Demobilized Soldiers

#### Support Social Reintegration of Ex-combatants Technical Cooperation Project

#### Process toward peace and recovery

Afghanistan was torn by conflict for more than 20 years. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of the military clique are vital processes necessary to realize recovery and peace as well as the creation of a national army, rehabilitation of police forces, and the establishment of a judiciary and drug enforcement activities.

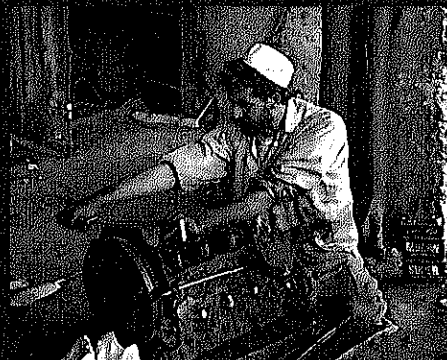
In addition to a contribution of about 7.2 billion yen (2003-2004), Japan, who became the leader of the DDR at the G8 security meeting in April 2002, established Afghanistan's New Beginning Program (ANBP) together with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), whose purpose is to implement neutral and functional DDR through collaboration with the Afghanistan government, major donor countries, and aid agencies.

#### Vocational training in light industries

JICA conducted a fact-finding study

to look into the background of the DDR request in February 2003 and dispatched an expert to make a DDR policy and aid plan to the Japanese Embassy in Afghanistan as a special representative of the Japanese government in March. Furthermore, JICA conducted project formation studies\* in June and September for the purpose of planning a technical cooperation project to promote the social reintegration of demobilized soldiers. In this project, which is focused on agriculture, industry, and construction as priority fields for vocational training, JICA experts train local instructors in the capital, Kabul, and the instructors are then dispatched to regional vocational training facilities to offer vocational training to ex-combatants. It was decided that training in light industry, such as sheet metal, welding, and machine work, would be first implemented with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

At present, this instructor training facility is being repaired. This project gained attention as a collaborative project with German Technical Corporation (GTZ) that implements similar vocational training in the same facility. The facility



Ex-combatant participating in vocational training

built by Russia 25 years ago was destroyed by bombing right before its completion and had never been used. It is expected that the reconstruction of this facility will help local people realize the accomplishment of peace, and ex-combatants will learn skills to support their livelihood through training by trained instructors dispatched across Afghanistan. They will thus live peacefully with their families and people in the local communities.

(JICA Afghanistan Office)

## ■ Industry Promotion and Human Resources Development

The European Union (EU) has been promoting a free trade partnership in this region to achieve economic and social development and stability in the Mediterranean area. Tunisia (1995), Morocco (1996), Palestine (1997), Jordan (1997), Egypt (2001), and Algeria (2002) have already joined the partnership agreement. In the future, these countries are planning to further establish a Free Trade Area (FTA) to develop a full-scale free-trade system, and thus they require the development of domestic industries capable of meeting international competition.

In many countries in the Middle East, according to the rapid increase in population, young potential workers account for the majority of the population, and the problem of unemployment has become increasingly serious, becoming one factor for social anxiety. Therefore, it is urgent to alleviate

unemployment through training technical manpower who will support various industries by themselves.

To cope with these problems, JICA assists human resources development such as automobile mechanics in Saudi Arabia, electrical and electronics engineers in Tunisia, and automatic control engineers in Turkey by providing vocational training and advice on policy-making in various industries.

## ■ South-South Cooperation

In the Middle East, technical cooperation provided by Japan so far has produced good results and there are countries whose technical level rose to such a level that they themselves can provide cooperation to other technically developing countries. Since they share common development issues with neighboring countries and within the region as mentioned above, technical cooperation between developing countries

## Front Line

### ● Jordan Training in Electricity Field for Iraq

#### Outcome of Technical Cooperation Delivered from Country to Country

##### Third-country Training

#### Serious situation surrounding electricity

On May 4, 2004, one year following the end of the major war in Iraq, third-country training\* in the electricity field, which is one of the major pillars for Iraqi reconstruction support, commenced in Jordan, a country which has the strongest relationship with Iraq in terms of economics and history.

The functions of social infrastructure such as transportation, energy, and water have been drastically compromised due to repeated wars and economic restrictions over the past 13 years. Electric power, one of the most important lifelines of civic life, is not an exception, and only about half of the demand can be supplied at present. The Iraqi Ministry of Electricity has been requesting assistance from donor organizations, including those in the US and UK, so that electric power can be supplied to meet the demand in summer when demand increases for air conditioning. However, the internal security situation has hindered the progress of on-site reconstruction projects.

In this training course Iraqi engineers

are invited to Jordan from the central power distribution center which controls and operates the electric power demand in Iraq to learn analysis methods for the electric power systems and system operating methods for the purpose of enabling more appropriate electric power supply for the summer when the supply-and-demand situation becomes strained.

#### Overcoming difficulties

There were many difficulties in the course of implementation. Since entry to Iraq is very difficult and communications are extremely poor, a needs study as well as communications and adjustments necessary for the implementation, had to be carried out remotely. This took substantial time and labor to refine the curriculum and adjust training implementation.

Additionally, right before the training course began the US army started its Falluja clean-up operation, and internal security worsened, thus requiring changes in schedules and means of transportation for training participants.

Nevertheless, these problems were solved thanks to the active participation



Iraq engineers taking training course in a neighbor country, Jordan

of the Jordan National Electric Power Company (NEPCO), which implements training, and the training was successfully implemented with participation of all the trainees as planned.

Previously, JICA provided training facilities and dispatched experts to NEPCO. South-South cooperation was carried out successfully by utilizing and transferring from Jordan to Iraq the technologies that had been transferred from Japan.

JICA plans to continue positive cooperation in the electric power field in Iraq in cooperation with the NEPCO.

(JICA Jordan Office)

called South-South cooperation\* is implemented as an effective and efficient method of cooperation. Tunisia and Morocco provide cooperation to neighboring Arab countries and West African countries, Egypt and Jordan to Arab countries and African countries, Turkey to Central Asian countries and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) III in October 2003, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a development strategy devised by the people of Africa and shared by all African countries, was evaluated in terms of the emergence of ownership\* of each country inside the region, and it was confirmed that the international community would continue its support. North African countries follow the framework of the NEPAD to strengthen the coordination and cooperation inside the region of Africa. With such a background,

cooperation is provided to fields such as agriculture, medical care and welding in Egypt, maternal and child health and environment in Tunisia, and fishery and water supply systems in Morocco.

On the other hand, policy enhancement to promote the cooperation of Japan and Arab countries was announced when Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro visited Egypt and Saudi Arabia in May 2003. Reconstruction assistance for Iraq and the promotion of cooperation with Arab countries for the support of the Middle East peace plan are government policies. In line with these policies, JICA provided training for 100 Iraqi people involved in medical care in Egypt and also training of electric power fields for Iraqi engineers in Jordan. Furthermore, both countries extend cooperation for Palestine in fields such as medical equipment, agricultural management, jurisdiction, finance and administration, and electricity.

## Front Line

### ● Saudi Arabia Saudi-Japanese Automobile High Institute Project

#### New Project Receives Cooperation from Groups in the Private Sector

##### Technical Cooperation Project

#### Saudization: Saudi people employment expansion policy

The Saudi-Japanese Automobile High Institute Project, unlike conventional JICA projects, has gained attention as a new type of project.

The establishment of this institute originated from the conclusion of a joint announcement of bilateral cooperation for its establishment when Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah paid a visit to Japan in October 1998. New type means that groups in the private sector of both countries participated and cooperated in the JICA project. The institute opened in September 2002 and has been operated as a private automobile mechanics school with substantial support from the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. from the Japanese side and from the Japanese Automobile Distributors in the Kingdom from the Saudi Arabian side.

It is expected that young Saudi Arabians who graduate from this school will find employment at domestic automobile companies, thus contributing to the promotion of a Saudization policy, which the government of Saudi Arabia regards as the most important agenda in its national policy.

#### Sustainable development of the institute

In this project, experts on car mechanics recommended by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. transfer skills to counterparts every day. Their activities are diverse, and not limited to skills in the car mechanics field. They actively participate in the management of the institute, safety controls, and discipline education for students and school events, while also providing advice. The aim of this project is not only the improvement of the facilities of the institute and the skills of the counterparts. We would like all the people, including staff, counterparts, and students, to understand that they need to have affection for this institute for the purpose of sustainable development\* after completion of the project implementation period.

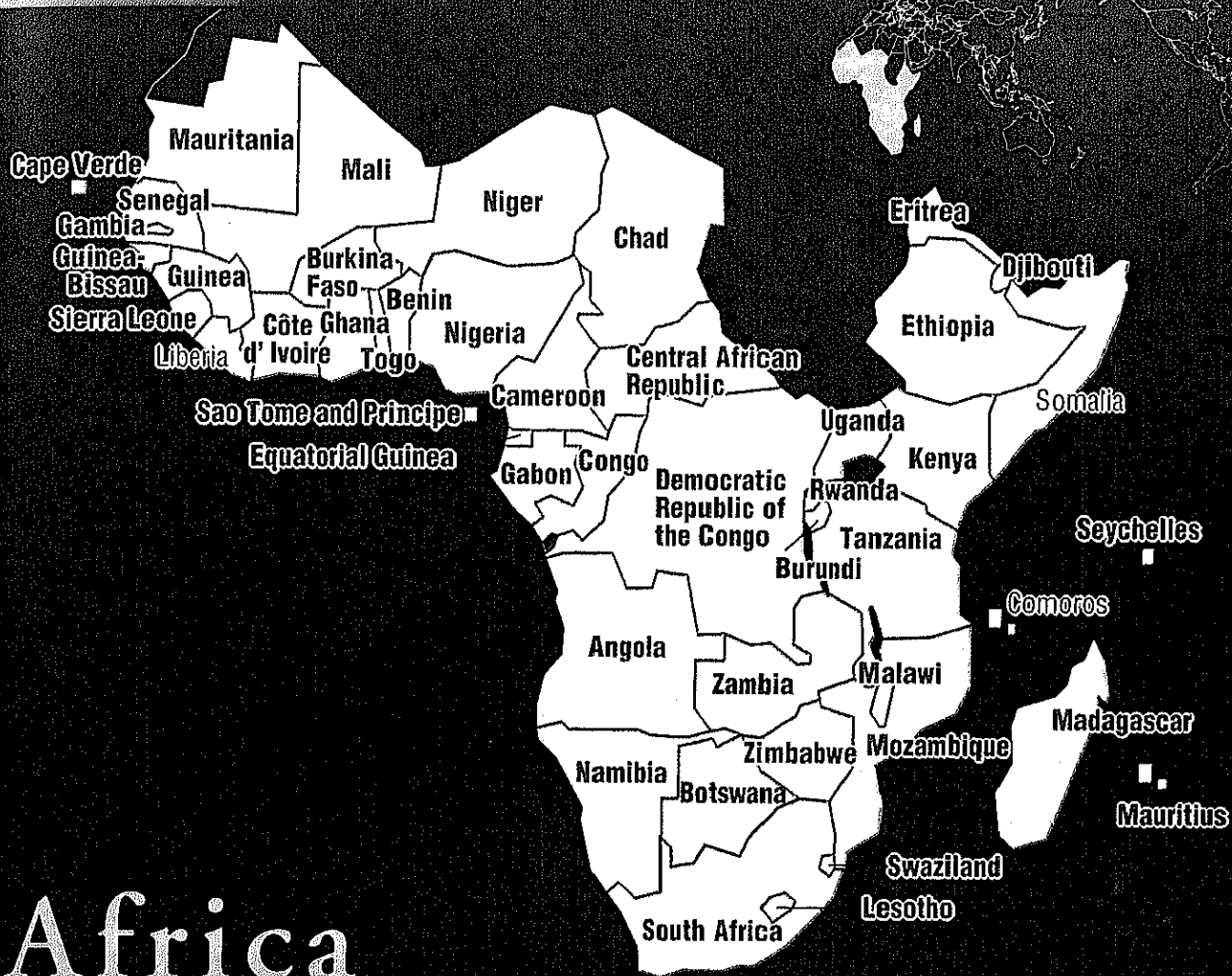
Specifically, one of their activities is safety patrols which were invented by the experts. The patrol committee goes on patrol inside the institute once every three months to check that there are no hazards for students, and tries to find points that need improving for a better training environment. They are making efforts to raise the safety consciousness



Young engineers who will be future leaders of Saudi Arabia

throughout the entire institute. Based on a proposal from the project experts, a skills contest carried out by the students will be held in July 2004 to demonstrate the results of the students' training to many people in the form of a contest. This will surely help increase students' motivation for study. Many other proposals have been presented and implemented. The experts are working hard on technology transfer\* activities, believing that it is important for the management side of the institute, staff, students, and the project experts to share the idea of operating this institute together and that such unity makes it a better institute.

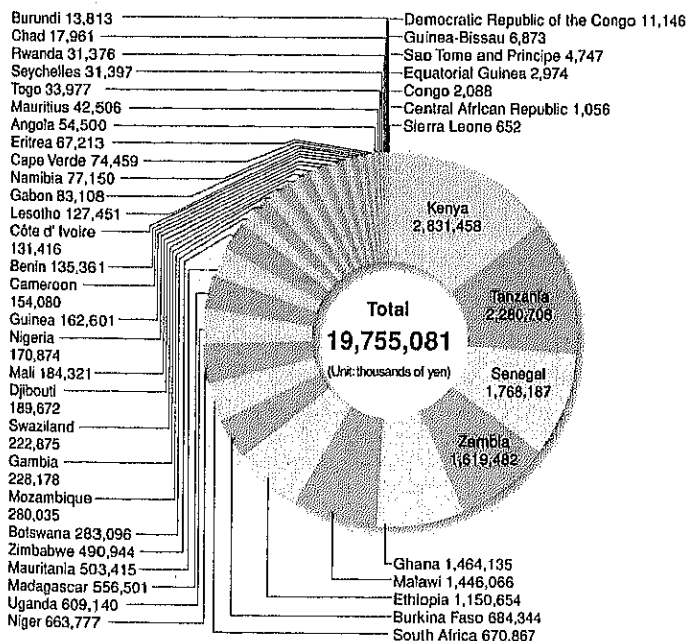
(JICA Saudi Arabia Office)



# Africa

## Pillars of Aid → Ultimate Goal of "Poverty Alleviation"

### ■ Cooperation results by country (FY 2003)



After the end of the Cold War era, in order to stimulate world interest in African development, Japan jointly started hosting the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) with international organizations such as the UN in 1993. At TICAD III in 2003, Japan announced that it would contribute to African development with the international community and African countries based on the three pillars of human-centered development\*, poverty reduction through economic development, and consolidation of peace.

Based on Japan's guidelines for aid to Africa and the common goals of the international community, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)\*, JICA specifies poverty reduction based on human security\* as the ultimate goal for African development in providing support in line with the following.

- 1) Contribution to MDGs (cooperation for poverty alleviation, improvement of the social development indices)
- 2) Deployment of projects taking human security into consideration (enhancement of support for the vulnerable groups and communities)
- 3) Timely reconstruction assistance in post-conflict countries
- 4) Follow up of TICAD III (human-centered development, poverty reduction through economic development, and consolidation of peace) and collaboration with the New Partnership of Africa's Development (NEPAD)
- 5) Support for the policy process of each African country and strengthening aid coordination through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)\*, etc.

In providing the above-mentioned cooperation, JICA promotes intra-regional cooperation among African countries with regional bases and South-South cooperation\* utilizing the experience of development in Asia.

# Current State of Development

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

Africa (Sub-Saharan Africa excluding Sudan, which is classified as a Middle East country) is a vast region covering an area of 21.25 million km<sup>2</sup>. It has a truly diverse climate, ranging from desert-like arid regions to hot and humid tropical rain forest regions, and is home to more than 600 million people in 47 countries.

In the 1960s, when most African countries gained their independence, these countries benefited from an international economic environment characterized by stability in the international prices of primary products for export and were able to achieve steady growth. However, under the influence of their colonial past, they could not move away from monoculture economies that rely on specific primary products, and their economic growths were sluggish in 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. In the 1980s many African countries faced a serious economic crisis called the Lost Decade and suffered from a constant shortage of funds not only for development but also for recurrent costs to provide basic administrative services.

The major factors of stagnation in Africa are vulnerable national functions and unstable political and social systems, including domestic conflicts. In the 1990s, many African countries introduced multiparty systems and election systems in efforts to establish democratic political systems. However, as many as 19 countries have experienced conflicts since the 1990s, generating more than four million refugees, which accounts for one-third of the world refugee population.

Thirty-five of the world's 50 least developed countries (LDCs)\* are in Africa. Due to prolonged economic stagnation, per capita income remains lower than it was in the 1960s. Approximately 40% of the total population of Africa live under the poverty line of one dollar per day.

In addition, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and marginalization from the world economy in terms of trade, investment, and information is aggravating African poverty. In the human development index that is a combination of social development indices such as health care and education, the bottom 24 countries are in Africa.

## ■ Support for Africa in Transition

African countries have been in transition in terms of political, economic, and social development since the 1990s.

Africa has been the largest recipient region of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) continuously since the 1980s. However, the received amount of ODA dropped to 13.9 billion US dollars in 2001 after peaking at 19.5 billion US dollars in 1992, due to aid fatigue\* in western countries in the 1990s.

However, since 2001, as seen in the discussions on African problems at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, Monterey United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002, and the adoption of G8 Africa Action Plan at the Kananaskis Summit, western countries have announced an increase in aid volume for Africa.

Meanwhile, progress in democratization has been seen in some countries in Africa; for example, peaceful changes of government took place in Senegal (2000) and Kenya (2002). In October 2001, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a development initiative emphasizing the ownership\* of African countries, was announced, introducing the African Peer Review Mechanism, which mutually monitors the democratization of others. In July 2002, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) that was established in May 1963 was developmentally reorganized into the African Union. It strengthens efforts for the realization of political and economic integration in the region, as well as the prevention and solution of conflicts as an organization comprised of 53 countries and regions of Africa. It is widely understood that peace and good governance\* are prerequisites to development. Therefore, the reinforcement of new approaches under the initiative of African people to secure peace and good governance has become important.

Since the latter half of the 1990s, the PRSP has been formulated and sector wide approaches have been implemented in almost 30 countries in Africa. Economic policies based on market mechanisms must be promoted while paying close attention to the poverty group (reconstruction of public services such as health care and education, and broad-based economic growth).

# Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

## ■ Building on TICAD

In fiscal 2003, JICA provided technical cooperation to Africa worth 19.8 billion yen. When grant aid (based on Exchange of Notes) is added, Japan extended support of more than 57.8 billion yen and has attained the position as a major donor\* country for Africa as well.

The Japanese government held TICAD, TICAD II, and TICAD III jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations in 1993, 1998, and 2003, respectively, in order to draw the world's attention to the importance of African development. During the 10 years of the TICAD process, the Japanese government provided educational opportunities to about 2.6 million children by constructing schools, provided health care and medical services for about 240 million people with vaccinations, and supplied safe water for about 3 million people through bilateral official development assistance worth about 12 billion US dollars in total.

At TICAD III in 2003, the Japanese government announced Japan's Initiative for Cooperation for Africa based

on the three pillars of human-centered development, poverty reduction through economic development, and consolidation of peace. The announcement clarifies NEPAD support through the TICAD process as Japan's basic policy and stresses the importance of the perspective of human security in African development.

On the basis of the results of TICAD, with the awareness that the goal of African development is poverty alleviation, JICA will actively address approaches and priority issues described below.

## ■ Development Approaches for Africa

### 1. Human Security

Many people in Africa cannot receive the protection normally entitled to citizens of a nation due to vulnerable national functions. They are also exposed to threats beyond the framework of a nation, such as HIV/AIDS, the influx of small arms, and borderless ethnic conflicts. Human security is a concept whose aim is to protect people and strengthen capacities for protection from a wide variety of threats that reach

## Front Line

### ● Djibouti Smile for All in the World

#### Providing Privately Owned Goods to Developing Country

#### Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

#### Bringing individual goodwill directly to the site

The Smile for All in the World program is tentatively being carried out to support activities of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs). Conventionally, goods necessary for JOCV activities were provided by JICA in response to requests from JOCVs. In this new program the method of procurement is totally different; JICA exhibits goods requested by JOCVs to general Japanese citizens and has privately owned equipment sent directly to the site.

Though aid projects are carried out with Japanese tax money, it may be difficult for an individual taxpayer to have a sense of participation in international cooperation projects. In this new program, individuals directly send goods they own but no longer use to the cooperation site through JICA and thus will

feel closer to the cooperation project. Since the launch of this program in fiscal 2003, a large number of items such as sporting goods, including Judo wear, musical instruments, and stationery have been sent to developing countries and JOCVs respond by conveying the appreciation of the recipients.

#### Sending tools to Djibouti

A JOCV was dispatched to a car service station run by the Ministry of Equipment and Transport in Djibouti. When he applied for tools, he gained support from people in his hometown. At this car service station, construction machinery was provided with grant aid, and personnel at the car service station have received training in Japan. However, they are short of general and special tools to repair large-scale construction machines and it often takes 10



A set of tools sent from Japan

times as long as it would take in Japan to carry out certain tasks. Tools have just arrived and they are examining how to manage the tools with the JOCV playing the central part. It may take some time but it is expected that a proper management system will be established to allow the tools sent with goodwill to function effectively.

(JOCV Djibouti Office)



Expert working in an infectious disease control project in Ghana

beyond the conventional concept of national security. When JICA provides cooperation in line with this concept of human security in Africa, there are two possible directions.

One is the rebuilding of devastated post-conflict nations, strengthening capacities, and protection of people. In countries such as Eritrea and Angola, which are in the midst of the reconstruction stage following a peace agreement, JICA provides support for reconstruction and social stabilization through vocational training for demobilized soldiers and cooperation for development of rural community for internally displaced persons, refugees, and the residents of the recipient area.

The other is strengthening national functions and people's capacities to save people from chronically poor conditions. For example, to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, it is important to support improvements in health and medical administration and expand health care services by strengthening the capacities of the government of a developing country. And at the same time it is also important to improve elementary knowledge of HIV/AIDS and encourage changes in sexual behavior by directly educating people in prevention.

Emphasizing the concept of human security, JICA will provide cooperation prioritizing restoration and enhancement of national functions as the basis of protection of people and development of their independent decision-making capacities (empowerment\*).

## 2. Approaches for PRSP

To solve poverty issues through effective and efficient development using the small development budget of an African country and limited aid money from donor\* countries, all the actors involved in development must work together to reduce poverty by sharing the goals, strategy, and programs of development. It is important for the governments

of developing countries to formulate the PRSP and bring it into implementation with ownership. At the other end, donor countries are required to provide support in line with the framework of the PRSP promoted by the developing countries. Since the latter half of the 1990s, such PRSP approaches have been implemented in many countries.

The PRSP is a development strategy for reducing poverty with resource allocation medium-term plans, and is formulated with the participation of development actors, including the civil society, with a comprehensive view on national poverty issues. JICA actively and continuously takes part in the formulation process and implementation of the PRSP with an emphasis on cultivating ownership in African countries.

As for the monitoring of the PRSP implementation, indicators to measure concrete achievements are incorporated into each country's PRSP, and each year the implementation is reviewed based on the indicators. However the central governments and the terminal local governments of African countries cannot collect and utilize the life indicators of the citizens sufficiently due to shortages in labor and budget, making it difficult to measure the achievement of poverty reduction accurately. JICA started cooperation for the Tanzanian National Bureau of Statistics in 2003 to improve the poverty monitoring system, thus contributing to effective implementation of the PRSP.

The "Sector Program (SP)\*" 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 care. JICA supports the formulation of a sector strategy that takes into consideration cooperation effectiveness under the SP approach and the consistency between the SP and the PRSP. JICA will work on a standardization of procedures to reduce the administrative costs of the governments of developing countries and improvement of predictability of aid through resource allocation medium-term plans.

## 3. Promotion of South-South Cooperation

Africa is a conglomerate of various countries and different communities. At the same time, there are many issues that can be solved by the concerted efforts of several countries in the region. A similar experience in one country can be a good model to solve a problem in another.

To promote development by Africans themselves and mutual cooperation among African countries, JICA has implemented a project for the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) which supports higher education facilities in three East African countries (Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda), and a project for the Sokoine University of Agriculture Center for Sustainable Rural Development (SCSRD) in Tanzania. These projects support the initiatives of

African people and respect the wisdom and knowledge inherent to Africa.

In particular, AICAD is a unique project whose aim is to involve the advanced educational institutes of Africa in practical activities for poverty reduction more positively. In the implementation, JICA builds a network with other various organizations through support for research and development in line with needs at the community level, training and workshops for spreading this knowledge, and seminars for people in the community. African countries regard poverty as their own issue and promote the formulation of concrete action plans towards that end. It is expected that it will develop the human resources for the practical work at the site of development.

In addition to intra-regional cooperation in Africa, sharing development experience in Asia with Africa can be an effective aid approach in the sense that lessons can be learned from successful cases and precedents in Asia, especially Southeast Asia. This cooperation between Asia and Africa is an aid

approach that has been emphasized through the TICAD process, and JICA will continue to work on the reinforcement of cooperative relationships between the two regions while trying to match African needs to Asian resources. The Knowledge Creation Joint Program Between Asia and Africa commenced in March 2004 and personnel in charge of development in African countries are invited to Asian countries for training.

### ■ Actions for Priority Issues

#### 1. Setting Poverty Reduction as the Ultimate Goal

In light of Africa's severe poverty, it cannot be disputed that the social development sector, such as health and medical care and basic education, is important. In the current situation where 40% of the population in Africa live in absolute poverty, aid emphasizing human survival and dignity is more important than anything else from the perspective of human security.

## Front Line

### ● Tanzania Support for Youth Activities by JOCV

#### Spread the Traditional Arts of Ngoma to the World

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

#### Support young people in impoverished areas

The Temeke district in the Capital of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, is low both in terms of income and education, and the poverty rate is relatively high in the city. Problems such as drugs and crime have become more serious among young people. In the Temeke district, there is a group of young people who truly love Ngoma, a traditional art of Tanzania, and are making efforts to make the world realize the existence of the art. Ngoma is a Tanzanian dance and song form using such traditional musical instruments as drums and xylophones. The name of the group is the OYA THEATRE GROUP. This group was formed as a role model for young people in this district in cooperation with a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) who was dispatched to the Temeke district for youth activities in May 2000. At present, a second JOCV is working with the group.

Tanzania is more education-conscious than Japan is, and people with only a primary school education cannot

find good jobs. Consequently, many young people have no hope and by the age of 12 or 13, feeling that they are losers in society, have become involved in criminal activities. All the members of OYA only finished primary school. However, they have worked together with the JOCVs to fulfill their dreams.

#### Winning the championship and realizing their dreams

By 2003, the members of the group were fixed and had settled on their own artistic style. In April 2003, they won the championship in the Dar es Salaam Youth Art Festival. Then, at the Bagamoyo Art Festival held annually in the only art university in Tanzania, they were selected as an excellent group. In January 2004, they won the championship in an art festival hosted by foreign donors called MUSIC CROSS ROAD in a Dar es Salaam competition, after which they won the national championship in the all-Tanzania competition. In addition, they competed with representatives of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique, and won the



OYA THEATRE GROUP who won many competitions

championship. Thus they were able to participate in the world championship held in August 2004 in Sweden and launched a European tour. This championship allowed them to realize one of their dreams—to spread the Tanzanian traditional art of Ngoma to the world. It also convinced the members that they had a chance to make their dreams come true as long as they kept making efforts.

(JICA Tanzania Office)



At the same time, for African countries to maintain sustainable poverty reduction over the medium- and long-terms, development from the viewpoint of economic growth is indispensable. In Africa 70% of the population live in rural areas and most of them are poor, so the key to economic growth in Africa is development of rural areas.

Therefore, JICA will not only actively provide cooperation for urgent issues such as expansion of primary education for empowerment of people, HIV/AIDS measures, and water supply, but also work on agricultural and rural development in support of economic growth, secondary education, vocational training, development of entrepreneurs to improve income, and upgrading basic infrastructure\* such as local roads and electrification.

## 2. Human-centered Development

In the field of basic education, in addition to construction of school buildings with grant aid, we are making efforts to improve the quality of secondary mathematics and science education in Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and other countries with consideration given to balance with supply of primary education. In recent years, we have been working on administrative capacity development (study on school conditions, improvement of planning capacity in local education administration, training for school principals, etc.) and the promotion of school management with the participation of parents and the community. In Ethiopia, where decentralization is promoted, JICA provides support for capacity building\* based on community participation, such as the formulation of education plans of local governments and improvements in the information system.

In the field of health and medical care, with an emphasis on strengthening primary health care (PHC), cooperation is being provided to improve capacity for prevention and early treatment of infectious diseases that are serious problems in Africa. While assisting with improving the organizations and institutions of health and medical care administration, JICA is also training medical practitioners working in the field as a priority issue. Concerning HIV/AIDS, which has to be addressed urgently, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) is stressed as well as the initial stage of treatment. JICA supports VCT by providing inspection kits and training to field workers. As to infectious diseases such as parasites, projects are being implemented in Kenya, Ghana, and Zambia to provide support in capacity improvement of research institutes and test laboratories, as well as education and enlightenment activities in collaboration with JOCV activities and local NGOs.

In the field of water supply, Japan will further expand regional water supply projects (including deep well construction), which have been provided actively since TICAD I, and

will preferentially implement cooperation projects with consideration given to the poor, women, and the socially vulnerable. Furthermore, 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 agriculture and other economic and production activities, besides housework and child-rearing. However they have limited opportunities for education and other social services, which places them in a socially vulnerable position. Based on such recognition, JICA tries to ensure that the benefits of social services are received equally by women and men when implementing cooperation. We encourage beneficiaries of our activities to participate in development 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.

## 3. Poverty Alleviation through Economic Development

More than half of the African population is engaged in agriculture, and most people continue to produce food for their own self-sufficiency on a small scale. It is important therefore to contribute to the alleviation of poverty in rural areas through efforts to raise the productivity of small-scale farmers and diversify sources of cash income.

To improve agricultural earnings by raising agricultural productivity, especially land productivity, is the most important issue in Africa. Irrigation facilities are not well developed and only 5.17 million ha out of 158 million ha (3.3% of the entire cultivated area) have irrigation systems. Keeping this situation in mind, JICA will work on development and dissemination of techniques accessible to farmers. While providing cooperation in technical development and dissemination of agricultural techniques designed for small-scale farmers in countries including Tanzania, Kenya, and Ghana, JICA will make efforts to spread NERICA rice\*, a hybrid of Asian strains and African strains, based on farmers' participation.

From the viewpoint of impact to areas not covered by a project, JICA will deploy aid on national and sector-level scales with a focus on wide-ranging effects. Examples are policy support type cooperation like the agriculture sector program development study in Tanzania, establishment of an efficient dissemination system and capacity-building, support for research activities, and pilot projects with actually bearable cost.

On the other hand, due to insufficient infrastructure, the distribution system has the potential of greatly weakening the

competitiveness of agricultural products. In addition to a pilot project implemented in Uganda, JICA supports the formulation of a concrete development plan in relation to improvements in the distribution system as well as post-harvest treatment.

Along with the transformation of the entire African economic system, establishing and strengthening the market economic system, promotion of trade investment and development of the private sector such as small and medium-scale enterprises are also important. Human resources development will be at the center of cooperation in these fields as well. JICA has co-hosted a workshop in the investment field for African countries with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Egyptian government. Trading proficiency of countries is anticipated to improve following participation in the workshop.

As for construction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, broadcasting and communication systems, assistance is provided mainly in the form of grant aid. In addition, in Kenya

and Ethiopia personnel training courses are conducted to improve the maintenance and management skills necessary at the post-construction stage.

#### 4. Consolidation of Peace

Consolidation of peace is extremely important as a prerequisite for promoting all kinds of development. Taking into account the historical and cultural backgrounds of African countries, it is important to plant the basic principles of constitutionalism, democracy, and basic human rights, and to raise transparency and efficiency of government. In addition, to prevent a recurrence of conflict, steady rebuilding of the society and economy that stands on democracy and good governance is essential. Thus, JICA will extend support for post-conflict reconstruction and improved governance. Although not many projects have yet been implemented in this area of cooperation, support for the development of refugee camps in Tanzania and reintegration of demobilized soldiers and refugees in Eritrea has been implemented.

## Front Line

### • Tsukuba South Africa Agricultural and Rural Development Training Support for Building a Rainbow Nation

#### Acceptance of Technical Training Participants

#### Overcoming apartheid

People in South Africa are very cheerful and have pleasant smiles. However, they are burdened with the history of apartheid (policy of segregation). Black people were subjected to various restrictions—they could not receive the same services as white people and were arrested if they advocated freedom. The plantation-based agricultural system that produced crops for export was controlled by white people. Poor black farmers were forced to live in restricted residential areas. The gap between rich and poor expanded and rural areas were impoverished.

After apartheid was abolished in 1994, improvements in agriculture dissemination services to poor black people in rural areas became an important issue. However, desirable results have not yet been achieved due to a combination of labor shortages, insufficient rainfall, and soil deterioration.

At the JICA Tsukuba International Center, lectures on general rural development and observation of actual exam-

ples are provided as training to agricultural disseminators in South Africa. When they visited Nagasaki on a study tour, they received a lecture at the prefectural office and had an opportunity for exchange with a local life-improvement group. There they felt that they had to change their way of thinking as disseminators before discussing the content of instruction with farmers. Although this training is carried out in Japan where natural and social conditions differ, introduction of successful cases of "resourceful farmers" and the administrative system in support of them has a lot to teach them.

#### Show successful example of rural development

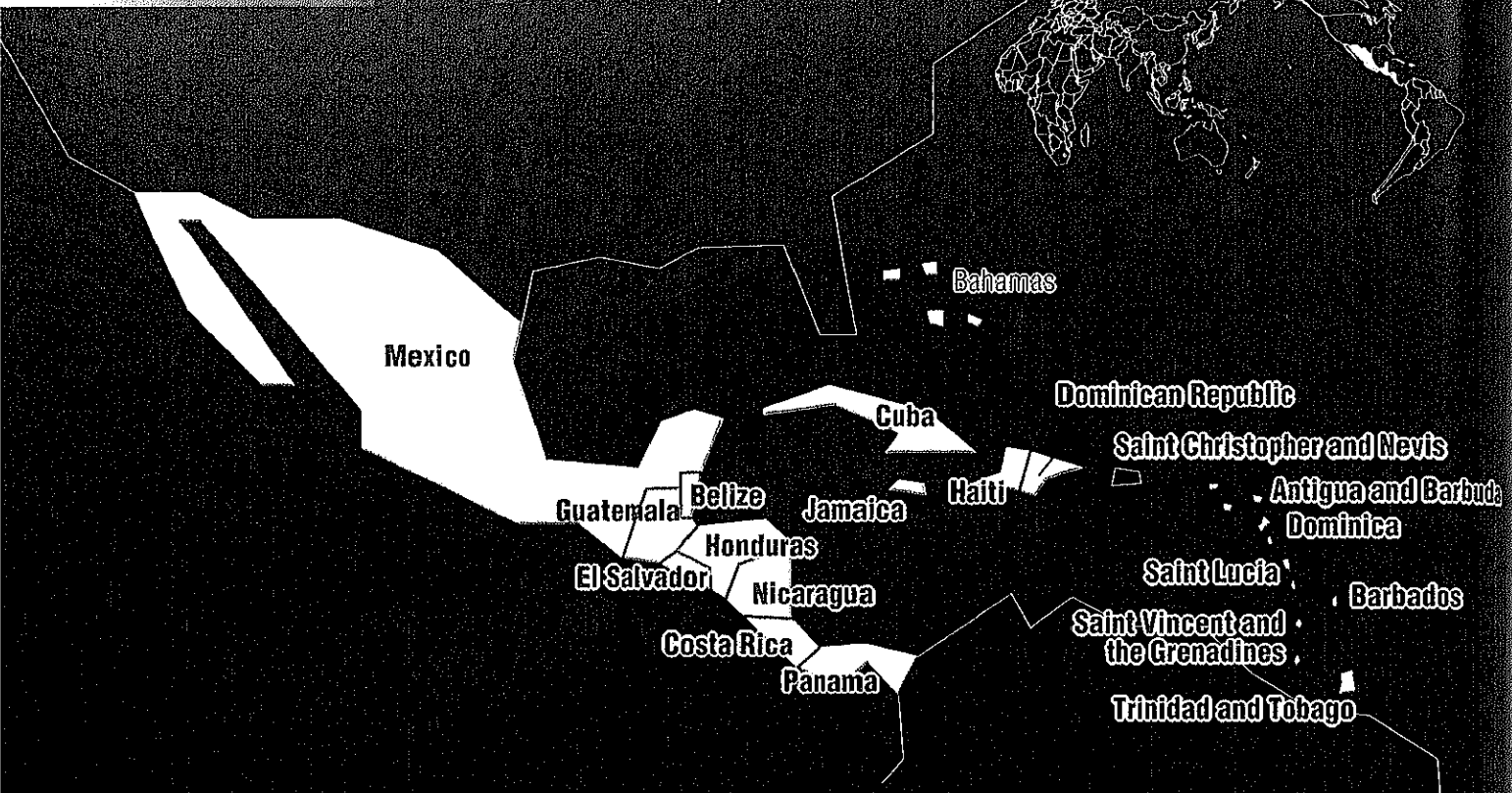
Currently JICA is implementing the Integrated Holistic Rural Development and Soil Conservation Programme in the Schoonord Area in the Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province, South Africa. Training participants who returned in March 2004 are involved in a pilot project that started locally in May.



Practical training in bread-making by an entrepreneurs' group in Sotome Town, Nagasaki prefecture

The cooperation mentioned earlier is only one part of the program when considering the negative history that falls like a shadow over rural areas of South Africa. However, JICA will contribute to rural development to support the Rainbow Nation consisting of various races, which came out in the inaugural speech of former President Mandela, by effectively showing successful examples of rural development in combination with training and the local project.

(Tsukuba International Center)

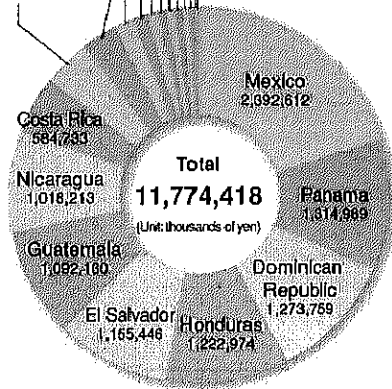


## Central America and the Caribbean

### Pillars of Aid → Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Economic Growth

#### ■ Cooperation results by country (FY 2003)

Saint Lucia	115,807	Belize	85,705
Barbados	148,084	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	85,014
Trinidad and Tobago	207,435	Antigua and Barbuda	83,695
Jamaica	359,074	Dominica	65,573
Cuba	475,515	Haiti	59,559
		Saint Christopher and Nevis	19,188
		Grenada	16,915



JICA continuously contributes to human resources and national development to support self-help efforts on the part of the recipient countries in Central America and the Caribbean, taking into account the following prioritized issues. Moreover, promotion of regional cooperation, utilization of South-South cooperation\*, and facilitation of aid coordination and collaboration are being considered.

#### 1. Measures against poverty and reduction of regional disparities

Prevailing gaps between rich and poor and income disparities among areas persist and support for the impoverished group and regional development are crucial.

#### 2. Industrial and regional development

With the tide of economic globalization, enhanced competitiveness (including export promotion, promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises, improved incomes of subsistence farmers and fishermen) is required.

#### 3. Health, hygiene, and regional medical care

The quality of health and hygiene services needs to be upgraded and community-based medical care needs to be improved.

#### 4. Education

Upgrading the quality of basic education is called for as a basis for human resources development and industrial development.

#### 5. Measures for the environment and conservation of natural environment

The conservation of urban environments in light of the over-concentration of populations in cities is important. In Central America, there are crucial areas in terms of biological diversity\*, and the conservation of those areas is a matter of international concern. Furthermore, the priority of environmental conservation of tourism resources is quite high in Central America and the Caribbean.

#### 6. Disaster prevention

Central America and the Caribbean are economically and socially vulnerable to natural disasters (particularly hurricanes and earthquakes), and therefore the establishment of a disaster prevention system is vital.

#### 7. Support for democratization and public security improvement

Post-conflict democratization and public security improvement remain an issue.

## 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 km<sup>2</sup>, or 2.2% of the world's surface, and is home to 173 million people, or 3% of the world's population. The region has many small countries, of which eight have land areas of less than 10,000km<sup>2</sup> and nine have populations of less than one million people.

The economies of most countries are based on agriculture and are reliant on exports of primary products. Although tourism is thriving in some countries, 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 US, special attention is required due to accumulating debt and external uncertainties, such as the impact of the Iraq issue on international financial markets.

### ■ Regional Alliance for a Peaceful and Safe Society

Decades of civil war in Central America since the late 1970s destroyed these countries' societies and economies. 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, as represented by the powerful hurricane, Mitch, in fall 1998, and devastating earthquakes in El Salvador in January and February 2001, this region is highly prone to natural disasters, and cooperation for disaster prevention and reconstruction is also needed to overcome the threats posed by such disasters.

### ■ Trend in Regional Integration

Recognizing the advantage of sharing languages, cultures and pressing issues, as well as benefiting from alliances such as rationalization, the small countries in the region are striving for regional integration.

Since 1991, the Central American Integration System (SICA) has attempted to coordinate various activities in various fields. President Vicente Fox of Mexico, who was inaugurated in December 2000, proposed the Puebla Panama Plan which promotes an alliance with Central America through infrastructure integration from the southern region of Mexico to Panama. This plan has further increased momentum toward an alliance. Negotiations on the US-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) were agreed to by the US and five Central American countries by January 2004.

In the Caribbean, an alliance has advanced since the establishment of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) in 1973. In 1995, Belize joined the Community and made its activities more vital.

## Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

### ■ A New Step in Support for South-South Cooperation —Mexico

Mexico, the country with the largest land area and population in Central America, is one of the Central American countries with close ties to Japan, as represented by the basic agreement on the Economic Partnership Agreement in March 2004. Whilst undertaking to raise its position in international society, Mexico still faces various issues such as underdevelopment of its southern region, regional disparities, industrial and regional development in response to the globalization, and environmental conservation. JICA accepts these issues as priorities and provides cooperation. In 2003, projects and development studies with the aim of environmental conservation in the Yucatan Peninsula in the south and a project to support small-scale producers in Chiapas State commenced.

JICA also provides assistance for cooperation projects in Central America and the Caribbean, which are implemented by the self-confessed leader of the region, Mexico. Projects

have been formulated in the support program for enhancing South-South cooperation with the aim of enhancing the aid implementation system of Mexico since July 2000. Two of those projects, an earthquake-resistant housing project in El Salvador and an agricultural pest control management project in Nicaragua, commenced in 2003 as collaborative cooperation projects between Japan and Mexico. In October 2003, the Japan-Mexico Partnership Program (JMPP) was signed and more collaborative projects are expected to commence in the coming years.

### ■ From Reconstruction to the Promotion of Economic Development —El Salvador

Peacebuilding and economic reconstruction have been relatively smooth in El Salvador since the signing of a peace accord in 1992. In August 2001, JICA dispatched the Project Confirmation Study Team to El Salvador, which was under reconstruction following the disastrous damage caused by the

hurricane of 1998 and the great earthquake of 2001, and determined that the priority areas are the reactivation of the production sector, social development, the environment, and support for democratization. Cooperation has been promoted accordingly.

In the eastern region, where development lags, the promotion of development emphasizing La Union port is anticipated. In response, JICA conducted the El Salvador Economic Development Study, which includes the development of the eastern region. JICA plans to support poverty reduction and activation of the regional economy through the promotion of implementation of projects proposed by the study.

### ■ Support Reconstruction of the Poorest Country in Central America—Nicaragua

Nicaragua has the lowest per capita income in Central America, with many people living under the poverty line. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)\* was formulated in 2001 and conditions for debt reduction were approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in January 2004.

The priority areas of Japan's aid include agricultural and rural development, health and medical care, education, roads and transportation infrastructure, support for democratization, and disaster prevention. JICA formulates projects accordingly. In order to support development contributing to poverty reduction, cooperation in strengthening competitiveness mainly in agriculture and livestock farming, as well as alleviation of natural disasters and social vulnerability especially with respect to the impoverished group, are called for. In 2002, JICA launched the Reduction of Vulnerability against Natural Disaster and Community-based Rural Development Project in Villanueva City, particularly targeting impoverished areas. This project aims to develop the disaster prevention capability of the community.

### ■ In Search of Cooperation Contributing to National Reconciliation—Guatemala

In Guatemala, since the signing of the peace accords between the Guatemalan government and left-wing guerrillas 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 living environment in the mountainous areas, security, and the promotion of ethnic reconciliation.

JICA, in response to policy dialogues between the ODA Task Forces and the government of Guatemala, plans to develop cooperation focusing on three areas, namely, improvement of rural living, sustainable economic development, and the consolidation of democracy. In the area of improvement of rural living, cooperation projects in the areas of health care, education, and agriculture are being planned based on the perspective that a comprehensive approach is necessary, with the focus on indigenous people. For the consolidation of democracy, a project formulation study\* team is scheduled for dispatch to determine future policies in fiscal 2004. In

Guatemala, ensuring citizens' security and promoting rights of indigenous people and protection of human rights are important issues.

### ■ For Effective Cooperation—Honduras

After Haiti and Nicaragua, Honduras is one of the least developed countries. Now that reconstruction assistance following the hurricane devastation is winding down, the focus of the donors\* coordination has shifted to social development. The current major task is the implementation of specific measures based on the PRSP, which was formulated at the initiative of Honduras in 2001.

The prioritized fields in Japan's aid include infrastructure improvement, improvement of basic living conditions, promotion of key industries such as agriculture and fishery, and human resources development. Primary education, health care, and development of impoverished areas in particular precede them. JICA co-hosted a seminar on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)\* with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the western region, where many municipalities are impoverished. Based on the results of the seminar, JICA has formulated a project aimed at comprehensive development in accordance with the needs of local residents.

In 2002, JICA launched the Project for the Improvement of Teaching Methods in Mathematics, which developed from past efforts in the field of primary education. JICA dispatches region-wide project formulation advisors\* to disseminate and advance the outcomes of the project throughout Central America.

### ■ Unique Efforts Leading the Region—Costa Rica

Costa Rica has achieved high educational standards and well-organized social security systems. It is a stable democratic country in Central America, a region where politics have been generally unstable.

JICA provides cooperation in Costa Rica with the priority on environmental conservation and industrial development. In the Project on Sustainable Fisheries Management for the Gulf of Nicoya, planning and technical guidance have been offered for the management of the environment and marine resources of the north Gulf of Nicoya. The Technical Instructor and Personnel Training Center for Industrial Development of Central America (CEPOF) contributes to industrial development not only in Costa Rica, but also in neighboring countries through third-country training\*. In addition, through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program, JICA has extended assistance in holding seminars at the national level and field follow-ups in the area of rehabilitation. Collaboration with JOCVs and relevant organizations in neighboring countries is expected in the future.

### ■ Wide-ranging Development in a Country Centered on the Canal—Panama

Panama, which relies heavily on service industries related to the canal, has promoted free trade agreements, including the

Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), ever since the hand-over of the Panama Canal in 1999. At the same time, it has tackled domestic issues such as environmental conservation and poverty. The reduction of disparities between rich and poor and among areas, sustainable development \*of economy, environmental conservation, and support for the canal and the surrounding areas are priority fields for JICA's cooperation.

In fiscal 2003, two technical cooperation projects commenced: the Sustainable Agricultural Training and Extension Project in Rural Areas and the Water Quality Monitoring Technique Project. At the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRE-DENAC) which was established in Panama as a regional base, a Japanese expert is working on region-wide cooperation to enhance the disaster prevention system, while coordinating with disaster prevention organizations in other countries.

### ■ Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Economy Development—Dominican Republic

JICA has provided cooperation in priority areas, such as infrastructure development, health and medical care, agricul-

ture, livestock and fishery, education, and the environment. Despite a high rate of economic growth that has lasted for nearly 10 years, the gaps between rich and poor and disparities among areas have not been eliminated. Therefore, JICA places the utmost emphasis on poverty reduction. Furthermore, requests have been made to support sustainable development of the economy, such as the expansion of trade and investment and urban environment conservation.

Two projects commenced in 2003: Enhancement of the Regional Health Care Services, which aims to improve the rate of vaccination for maternal and child health in the impoverished province of Samana, and the Environmental Agriculture Project (production of organic vegetables), which aims to improve the income of subsistence farmers in the central part of La Vega province. In order to support the redevelopment and colonization program of the former national sugarcane fields, which has been promoted by the government of the Dominican Republic, the Project for Groundwater Development in the Former Plantation Areas (development study) has been implemented and a master plan for the redevelopment has been submitted.

## Front Line

### ● El Salvador Waste Treatment Program in Central America

#### Key Persons in New Project

#### Former Training Participants

#### Workshop on waste issues

El Salvador is a small country, with an area 1.2 times as large as Shikoku and a population exceeding 6.5 million. The disposal of waste is a serious problem in this country. One thousand eight hundred tons of waste, which accounts for 66% of all waste, is disposed improperly every day at 143 illegal dumping sites throughout the country. However, local governments, which are responsible for the waste treatment, have neither the necessary budget nor the personnel, and are incapable of dealing with the problem.

In November 2003, in order to contribute to a solution to the waste problem, a group of 16 former El Salvadorian training participants, who had attended JICA training, held a workshop inviting 281 officers of local governments, including 40 governors. Utilizing skills acquired in Japan and Mexico, they constructed a two-day workshop comprising lectures and practical training in accordance with the situations in the field. A three-month preparation period started in the form of voluntary services on their after-work hours and holidays. Thank to their efforts, the workshop was well received

by the participants, who raised keen questions and requested a continuation of the activity. Also, the former training participants themselves seemed to re-acknowledge the seriousness of the local waste problems. Another positive outcome was that the former training participants, who had a rare occasion to get together after coming home, were able to renew their relationships, share information in their own fields, and upgrade their skills. Currently, it has been approved for them to prepare for the workshop during working hours.

#### A technical network group that transcends professional affiliations

After the workshop, the former participants submitted a proposal to JICA about a specific pilot project. This led to the formation of a technical cooperation project called the Solid Waste Management Cooperation Program for Small Municipalities, which is scheduled to start in August 2004. They participated in the project right from the beginning of the planning stage and will assume an important role as technical instructors in this five-year project. Recently, this



Practical training on the Formulation of Waste Collection Routes at the workshop

group has drawn the attention of other donors as a network group that transcends professional affiliations.

Preparation for the Solid Waste Management Cooperation Program for Small Municipalities in Central America is also under way in which region-wide cooperation will be carried out to address the waste problem, a common issue in Central America, while sharing information and results. Taking the case of El Salvador as a model, it is expected that former training participants will get together to play a central role in planning projects for the participating countries.

(JICA/JOCV El Salvador Office)

## Region-wide Cooperation Activities—The Caribbean

The countries of the Caribbean are mostly small in size and population, and many have gained independence in recent years. Because of their relatively high per capita income and small economies, Japan does not have a strong record of cooperation in these countries. It is effective to provide assistance for the common development issues on the regional basis, using regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM). JICA addresses issues based on discussions at the Japan-CARICOM Consultation, where negotiations on foreign affairs at the working-level take place annually. Among such issues, measures against floods caused by the torrential rain of a hurricane are called for. With the aim of expanding cooperation to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) in Barbados, JICA has implemented a technical cooperation project called the Caribbean Disaster Management Project in order to disseminate technical know-how for hazard mapping in 16 CDERA countries for three years starting in August 2002. In the area of fishery, JICA conducts a project formulation study on the Caribbean

Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), a subsidiary agency of CARICOM. This study examines the feasibility of cooperation on marine resource management focusing on the income improvement of subsistence fishermen, which will cover a wide area of CARICOM members.

The relations between Japan and Jamaica, the largest English speaking Caribbean country, have become closer over the years. Dispatch of volunteers and technical cooperation projects are at the heart of cooperation in the Caribbean. In order to spread the results of the Project for Strengthening Health Care in the Southern Region throughout the CARICOM countries, which terminated in May 2003 after its fifth year, JICA and the Ministry of Health of Jamaica launched a five-year third-country group training called the Project for the Prevention of Chronic Non-communicable Diseases in January 2004. The training of 2004 was attended by 16 doctors from four countries, including Trinidad and Tobago. In cooperation with the Caribbean Regional Office of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), JICA dispatches JOCVs to promote education on HIV/AIDS prevention for youth.

## Front Line

### ● Panama

## Support for Indigenous People through Traditional Artifacts

### Autonomous Management of Production and Sales of Chacara

#### Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

#### Correcting income disparities

In Panama, income disparity is the second largest in Central and South America. In cooperation with a local NPO, Project Ngobe-Bugle, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) have been working in the indigenous people's autonomous area since 1998. To improve the lives of indigenous people, 95% of whom live below the poverty line, various types of cooperation are provided, including agricultural cooperation, improvement of maternal and child health to prevent young pregnancies and fertility problems, and support for women's groups with a view toward economic independence and the social participation of women.

The ultimate goal of these activities is to support economic independence for indigenous people. In Panama, where 75% of the GDP relies on the tertiary industry, it is not easy for indigenous people to secure cash income from primary commodities on their own. Because the residential areas of indigenous people are located in remote mountains or along rivers nearly 10 hours from the capital of

Panama City, there are geographical disadvantages.

#### Traditional artifacts and cash income

There are unique woven bags called chacara which are used to carry virtually anything from bananas and logs to babies, and they are also produced as artifacts. Production takes a long time, starting from the collection of leaves called pita, to the extraction of fibers, bleaching, drying, dyeing, spinning thread and weaving by hand. This process is all done by hand by local women.

Chacara bags are popular among the Japanese in Panama; products made by women have been transported and sold with the help of the JOCVs. The quality has improved to artifact level and they are now available in different sizes, colors, and designs. On the other hand, local women have realized that the bags are transported by the JOCVs and sold mainly to Japanese at the price they name as long as they produce them, and the activity has become dependent on the support, whereas in a normal



Collecting leaves of the pita plant to be used in making chacaras

business situation one must respond to the severe market demand in terms of price, quality, and delivery date. Therefore, they are not able to run their own business since they are dependent on JOCVs. They have held many meetings and invited mainly group leaders to patiently explain the sales, etc., so that they are able to run their business on their own in the near future. Two priority tasks that have been tackled by JOCVs are maintaining skills in traditional artifacts and securing cash income by developing markets and finding a way to connect the production site to the market, while fostering the independence of the women.

(JICA Panama Office)