

Chapter 2

1 Respond to Diversifying Needs for Assistance

—Technical Cooperation Projects—



An expert giving instructions in sowing seeds in the rural development project in Panama

Tailor-made Cooperation Plans

■ What is a Technical Cooperation Project?

The needs of developing countries exist in various areas as follows: assistance in developing human resources in the agricultural and medical care fields; establishing a legal system; and post-conflict reconstruction, represented by Afghanistan. Those needs have become more diverse and multi-phased. Quick response is needed in developing countries that aim to reconstruct their countries and escape from poverty as fast as possible. Therefore, it is important to plan and implement highly effective cooperation based on the situations and development issues of each country accurately and promptly.

After receiving a request from a developing country, JICA adopts various cooperation approaches (cooperation tools) such as dispatching experts to provide technical cooperation, providing necessary equipment, and inviting people from developing countries to Japan for training. In order to achieve objectives set to address the development issues of developing countries, JICA determines how to combine these cooperation tools, how long they will be implemented, and how to time them for the most effective and efficient results. "Technical cooperation project" stands for cooperation implemented according to the plan made through consultations with the recipient country from the aforementioned viewpoint. In "technical cooperation projects," in order to address each problem so that a broad range of needs of developing countries can be met effectively and efficiently, cooperation plans are tailor-made and implemented jointly with the recipient country.

■ Cooperation with Respect to Ownership

Japan's cooperation is provided based on the concept of supporting the self-help efforts of developing countries. Technical cooperation projects are implemented jointly by personnel from the recipient country and Japan. "Ownership*" of the project lies strictly with the recipient country, and Japan's status is that of a cooperating partner. Personnel (the

government, local governments, NGOs, citizens, etc.) from the recipient country need to exercise ownership in the project. Most technical cooperation projects thus incorporate participatory methods that involve residents of a project's target area for planning, administration, and evaluation of the project.

If the recipient country is unable to obtain sufficient funds to implement the project, JICA may share local costs* such as costs required for examination and research. In order to support the self-help efforts of the recipient country, however JICA must request to bear the costs from the recipient country and minimize its burden in planning. Once the cooperation period is over, the recipient country is expected to continue the project alone. Scale and implementation plans of a project are drawn up based on forecasts of the capacity of the organization responsible for implementing the project in the recipient country to defray the costs after the cooperation period has concluded.

More effective technical cooperation requires not merely transferring Japan's technology and experiences as they are, but refining them into technology and institutions that are in line with local situations while deepening understanding of each other's culture and society. In promoting cooperation activities, Japan's technology, know-how, and experiences must be the catalyst of a basic approach for technical cooperation by stimulating, enhancing and fortifying the potential of human resources, organizational structure, and society that are already in existence in developing countries.

■ Cooperation with the Private Sector

More projects, such as those in the information technology (IT) field, benefit from technical know-how and experience accumulated in the private sector. In fiscal 2001, JICA introduced a method of consigning the entire management of a project to a private organization by utilizing human resources and know-how in the private sector. The introduction of this method is expected to bring about a wider range of results-oriented projects.

■ Planning and Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Projects

In planning a project, the significance and validity of the project is examined as an ex-ante evaluation.

The ex-ante evaluation is performed in terms of five criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. This evaluation is designed to estimate the outcome of the project as quantitatively and objectively as possible in order to set a clear target. The relationship between the results and the target is illustrated using input* and activities in a logical matrix, which is called the project design matrix* (PDM). All the information that has been prepared and analyzed in the process of the ex-ante evaluation is compiled in a project document (report). Creation of this project document with the government of the recipient country helps boost the ownership of the recipient country and project participation of the personnel as well as improve their planning capabilities. The Summary of Ex-ante Project Evaluation, a report of the results of ex-ante evaluation, is open to the public on JICA's homepage.

Technical cooperation projects that will be implemented continuously for more than three years incorporate mid-term evaluations in the middle of the term of cooperation. This evaluation is designed to look at progress and achievements at a middle point of the project, and if the progress does not comply to analysis at the ex-ante evaluation phase or the initial planning phase, the cause will be examined and the plan reviewed where necessary in order to ensure the success of the project. A terminal evaluation is performed six months before a project ends. The purpose of mid-term and terminal evaluations is to study and analyze the project on the basis of the same five criteria used in ex-ante evaluations and to determine whether or not the projection before starting the project is correct. As a result of the terminal evaluation, cooperation projects may be extended if necessary.

Dispatch of Technical Cooperation Experts

■ Features of Dispatch of Experts

Technical cooperation experts dispatched to developing countries advise and transfer their skills to administrators and technicians who play a central role in the development of these countries, depending on the situations, in order to contribute to institution-building, stronger organizations, and human resources development. Together with the acceptance of technical training participants, this program is positioned as the core of cooperation in the field of human resources development in developing countries.

Upon confirming the position of the recipient country in development issues, experts are dispatched using a comprehensive perspective. Cooperation in the form of dispatching

experts is capable of providing effective support in an assured manner by sharing the experiences of Japan with the recipient country in terms of systems, administrative services, and technology. Technology and the experiences of Japan are adapted, improved, and innovated in line with the social system, culture and climate of the recipient country for effective application and dissemination. This system is also capable of responding flexibly and promptly to emerging aid needs created by changes in the international community, such as transitions to market economies, and also to post-conflict situations in developing countries where administrative institutions have yet to be developed.

■ Types of Dispatch of Experts

There are two types of dispatch of experts: dispatch to technical cooperation projects and dispatch as advisors. The objective of the former is organizational reinforcement and human resources development in a specific field or area within a limited timeframe of cooperation. The objective of the latter is to provide recommendations and advice concerning policies in the core part of the recipient country's government.

In addition, excellent human resources of a developing country are dispatched as experts to another developing country. These are called third-country experts*. They are dispatched to complement the activities of a technical cooperation project or to disseminate technologies, which a recipient country had previously received through Japan's cooperation, to another developing country in turn.

New Movements

In fiscal 2002, JICA started proposal-type technical cooperation projects as a program to promote public participation in international cooperation. This is a new modality that utilizes the experiences and know-how of the private sector in forming and carrying out technical cooperation projects together with JICA.

Starting in fiscal 2001, JICA increased the allowance for technical fees in relation to dispatched experts to actively pursue the use of private sector human resources. In this regard, JICA expands the ongoing registry system for expert applicants and facilitates the employment of human resources from the private sector through publicizing available posts of experts.

■ Responding to New Needs

1. Strengthening Support for Economic Policy and Good Governance

There has been an increase in the demand for cooperation involving intellectual support for financial and monetary

policy and legal systems. From the viewpoint of support for good governance* as well as cooperation for intellectual support, JICA sends policy advisors to a central government organization responsible for policy formulation in order to provide vigorous support for institution-building and policy-making in various areas.

2. Support for Post-conflict Reconstruction

Timor-Leste achieved independence in May 2002 after governance by the United Nations Transitional Administration in Timor-Leste (UNTAET) following a period of extreme turmoil. Japan has provided cooperation to Timor-Leste to assist in the creation of a foundation for national management since January 2000. In addition, since March 2002 full-scale support has been conducted in Afghanistan, which inaugurated an interim regime in December 2001. Experts have been dispatched in the fields of education, health and medical care, and gender* issues.

3. Support for South-South Cooperation

The dispatch of third-country experts is positioned as support for South-South cooperation*, whereby developing countries assist other developing countries. Skills and knowledge appropriate to the recipient countries can be transferred smoothly by experts from countries with similarities in natural environments, languages, technical levels, and cultures. Furthermore, dispatching an expert from a neighboring country to address common issues on a regional level across borders leads to information sharing by way of the dispatched expert and network-building of human resources on the regional level. The modality has been favorably rated by all the countries concerned. In fiscal 2003, which saw a great number of requests for receiving and sending experts, we sent experts to Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

Project Results and Activities

■ Social Development Cooperation

Social development cooperation covers a wide range of technical activities in the following fields: construction, operation and maintenance of social infrastructure (e.g., urban planning, road transport, ports, marine transportation, telecommunication, water supply and drainage); education such as primary and secondary education, higher education, technical education, vocational training; the environment as a global issue* (e.g., measures for water and air pollution, disaster prevention for earthquakes and floods); poverty alleviation measures; and social security (e.g. welfare of persons with disabilities and prevention of workplace injuries).

Looking at trends in different areas, projects in education,



Rehabilitation for Disabled People Project in Chile

especially at the primary and secondary levels, are being carried out. JICA has extended its cooperation scope to literacy education and non-formal education (out-of-school education), without confining it to education in natural sciences and mathematics, which has been implemented since earlier times. In order to provide more people with opportunities for education, distance education is also promoted. Human resources development, including these educational projects, account for 60% of all our activities.

Another priority area is poverty alleviation. The DAC New Development Strategy* adopted in 1996 declared a goal of reducing extreme poverty to half of the 1990 level by 2015. This goal was confirmed in the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 as a development goal. In addition, a comprehensive development plan with a focus on alleviating poverty (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: PRSP*) that the World Bank has requested has become the mainstream plan of international solutions to poverty. Poverty issues have gained more worldwide attention recently.

In the field of support for persons with disabilities, cooperation has also commenced for the self-reliance of persons with disabilities in line with the principle of community-based rehabilitation.

In the field of social development, 123 technical cooperation projects were implemented in 48 countries in fiscal 2003, 16 projects in Asia, seven in the Middle East, nine in Africa, 11 in Latin America, three in Oceania, and two in Europe.

■ Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medical Care

The health and lives of many people living in developing countries are compromised by poor hygiene conditions, malnutrition, and endemic diseases. The high frequency of infant deaths and stillbirths puts pressure on individuals and family life and also prevents social and economic development. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious diseases are not just health issues that threaten the lives of people

in developing countries. They also have a great impact on families, communities, and countries, resulting in the loss of workers in the prime of their lives and an increase in the number of orphans. Recent advanced globalization prompted frequent international transportation of people and goods across borders, leading to the expansion of newly emerging infectious diseases such as SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), avian influenza, and HIV/AIDS on a global level, thus posing a threat to the whole international society.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000 specify reductions in child mortality, improvement of maternal health, and infectious disease control as some of the development goals of international community in the 21st century. The Japanese government has announced aggressive measures against infectious diseases including the Hashimoto

Initiative for Global Parasitic Disease Control and the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative. JICA also has been actively providing cooperation in infectious disease control and maternal and child health. Also, in Afghanistan, JICA provides assistance in post-conflict reconstruction and in controlling tuberculosis and supporting health care for mothers and children.

A wide range of cooperation has been provided in the field of infectious disease control, including vaccinations and education to spread necessary knowledge in the prevention of infectious diseases raging in developing countries such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, parasitic diseases, malaria, and polio. Advanced technology such as virus examination and research is also applied.

As for cooperation regarding maternal and child health, JICA is carrying out the Expanded Program on Immunization

Front Line

● Laos

Health Care Service Reinforcement Project for Children

Health Care Education Spread through "Three Hygiene" Campaign Song

Technical Cooperation Project

KIDSMILE Project

Laos is bordered by Viet Nam, Thailand, China, Cambodia, and Myanmar. The country's land area is about the same size as Honshu, Japan, with a population of approximately 5.3 million. The country has an easy slow pace even though it is surrounded by countries that have achieved remarkable economic growth in recent years. However, health and medical conditions are poor, and one child in 10 dies before reaching five years of age. To improve these conditions, a five-year project to enhance health care services for children commenced in November 2002. The project is named the KIDSMILE Project because a smile on a child's face brings a smile to the face of a family, which is thought to be an indicator of health and happiness that is shared by all the countries of the world.

In a way, the KIDSMILE Project is a new type of project. A conventional project targets a specific disease or a particular medical facility, but this project uses a sequential activity cycle and management from information collection to judgment, implementation, evaluation and feedback, all of which are required for enhancing health care services in the

central section of the Ministry of Health, as well as two prefectural health agencies and health care staff under the jurisdiction of the prefectures. Hygiene education is also provided through school health care activities as a contact point with local citizens. Through posters, picture books and songs, elementary school students learn three basic principles of health in Laos: clean water and food, clean body and clothes, and clean environment. This knowledge is then brought back to their homes and the community. We place particular emphasis on songs. Using a campaign song about "three hygienes," these school health campaigns are being carried out at 500 elementary schools in two prefectures in Laos.

Respecting the national character

However, it seems difficult for the people of Laos to accept any rapid changes, regardless of the type of activity. This is because the pace of life is unique to Laos, due to the Laotians own frame of mind and their own process of acceptance. It is rarely the case where things go smoothly and everything falls into place in the same way as they are



An expert providing health care education to village children

discussed at meetings. To promote the project, it is necessary to find a change, to acknowledge and appreciate the change no matter how trivial it may appear, and to lead the people.

On the other hand, there seems to be much to learn from the people of Laos with whom we have contact through the activities. For example, their easy-going way of thinking and lifestyle in the slow stream of time might be good for Japanese people. Thus, the KIDSMILE Project emphasizes the attitude that the staff from both Japan and Laos should learn from each other and thus better ourselves.

(JICA Laos Office)



Practical training at the medical technician training center in Cambodia

(EPI) in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as providing cooperation in disseminating necessary knowledge regarding family planning and safe childbirth and promoting the use of maternal and child health handbooks.

Steady efforts are required to raise the standard of health and medical care in developing countries. For example, the health care administration capacity needs to be enhanced, the health and medical care system represented by hospitals and health centers needs to be improved, and medical professionals such as doctors and nurses need to be trained.

In the health and medical care field in fiscal 2003, 42 technical cooperation projects were implemented in 29 countries: 21 projects in Asia, two in the Middle East, 10 in Africa, and nine in Latin America.

■ Agricultural Development Cooperation

The world's population grew rapidly in the latter half of the 20th century. It is now over six billion people. Some forecast that population growth will reach nine billion by 2050. Due to the increase in population, there is concern that we will be faced with food shortages on a global scale as well as environmental degradation caused by mass consumption of resources. Since population growth is particularly pronounced in the developing world, proper development in these countries is vital for the stability of people's lives throughout the world.

Many people in developing countries live in rural areas, and excessive cultivation and grazing as well as deforestation result in depletion of water resources and soil erosion. Consequently, agricultural productivity has dropped and social services such as health care and sanitation and basic education

have become unavailable, further deteriorating living conditions. Furthermore, the disparity in living standards between rural and urban areas causes new problems such as population influx to cities and the formation of slums.

In order to help people prosper, we must promote comprehensive agricultural and rural development with a focus on the lives of residents in rural areas while giving special attention to harmonization with the environment and relations with urban areas so that limited resources in rural areas can be utilized in a sustained manner.

Japan referred to the dissemination of New Rice for Africa (NERICA)* at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in August 2002. As a step toward this goal, JICA held a seminar on "Promotion of Rice Production and Dissemination in Africa" in Kenya in February 2004, the International Year of Rice, with the participation of international organizations and NGOs, including administrative officers and researchers from 17 sub-Saharan African countries, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA). It is expected to be the first step toward food security through discussions involving a large number of countries and organizations with the aim of promoting rice cultivation suitable for the natural environment of Africa.

In cooperation in the area of agriculture and rural development, we are making efforts in the development of agriculture and livestock techniques (research at universities and experimental centers) suitable for the region, training agricultural extension workers for the purpose of technology expansion, comprehensive rural development consisting of various factors such as agriculture, health care, employment creation, and gender issues.

In the agricultural and rural development cooperation field in fiscal 2003, 67 technical cooperation projects were implemented in 35 countries: 36 projects in Asia, one in Oceania, four in the Middle East, four in Africa, 20 in Latin America, and two in Europe.

■ Cooperation in the Field of Natural Environment Conservation

Human beings depend on many natural resources, which are also fundamental for sustainable development*. However, the natural environment is being threatened daily on a global scale and conservation of the natural environment and recovery of lost ecosystems are urgent issues to be tackled. JICA regards conservation of the natural environment to be one of the priority issues that need immediate action and works earnestly for cooperation.

In order to strengthen cooperation directed at natural environment conservation, JICA has expanded its field to biological diversity* conservation, wetland conservation, coral reef conservation, and wildlife protection area management, in addition to conventional fields such as dissemination of afforestation technology, social forestry, aquaculture, fishery training, and resources management. Thus, JICA's cooperation in this field covers a wide area.

For the conservation of the natural environment, understanding and involvement of local communities are crucial as well as assistance for the government of a developing country. Consequently, JICA strives to establish a system in which

local communities take the initiative to work on environmental conservation by encouraging their participation at the stages of identification and formulation of a project.

Moreover, the information and experience gained up to now in the cooperation of conserving natural environment have been systematically compiled to contribute to formulating future programs, specifically, in developing and examining cooperation policies and strategies and building a database.

Recognizing that cooperation with many other organizations and individuals working in the same field in Japan is important for providing more effective and efficient cooperation for natural environment conservation, JICA holds sym-

Front Line

• Morocco

Project for Establishment of Extension System for Artisan Fisheries

Nurture Human Resources for Disseminating Knowledge and Skills

Technical Cooperation Project

Preparation of educational materials for extension

Project for Establishment of Extension System for Artisan Fisheries commenced in June 2001 under a five-year plan with the aims of improving the livelihood of artisan fishermen and conserving marine resources and the environment. The project has recently reached its half-way point.

In the first year of the project, a basic study on the livelihood of artisan fishermen was conducted to uncover current issues, and better understand the knowledge and skills needed by artisan fishermen. As a result, the following six items were found to be significant: (1) promotion of a fishermen's association, (2) maintenance and management of out-board engines, (3) safe navigation, (4) quality control and hygiene control, (5) fishery techniques, and (6) conservation of marine resources.

In the second year, based on the results, preparation of educational materials for extension (videos, guidebooks, texts, pamphlets, etc) on two items per year started in cooperation with the Ministry of Fishery. Training of extension workers' coordinators (in-service teachers at fishery schools, who are expected to train extension workers in the future) is also carried out. By the end of the project, extension materials of all six items mentioned above will be complete, and using the materials, training of exten-

sion workers in the next generation and continuous support for artisan fishermen will be expanded. Education of extension workers' coordinators incorporates practical extension activities using trucks equipped with video monitors and out-board engines for mobile classrooms in addition to theories. It is designed in such a way that future extension workers can be trained more effectively by learning about the problems of primitive fishermen.

Securing an income source during the winter months when catch rates are low

The average annual income of the artisan fishermen of this project is approximately 24,000 Dirham (equivalent to about 290,000 yen). Although it fluctuates depending on the region, it drops to 500-1,500 Dirham (about 6,000-18,000 yen) per month or sometimes to zero during the winter, when catch rates are low, from 6,000-7,000 Dirham (about 70,000-80,000 yen) per month during the summer high season. Because fishing heavily relies on weather conditions, and the income is low and quite volatile, artisan fishermen are forced to move about for good fishing grounds. The project aims to develop a secondary income during the winter, which is attainable with a few minor adjustments and feasible efforts, and to create an income source for settlement. Using materials already

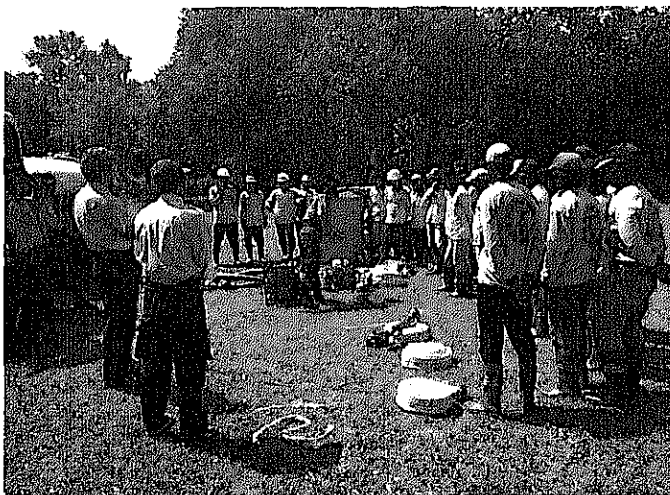


Providing education for extension workers' coordinators

developed in the project, extension activities have already commenced, and we have realized the immense expectation of the fishermen for new knowledge. In October 2003, our contribution to the improvement of artisan fishermen and resource conservation through this project was recognized and awarded with the Hassan II Prize for the environment from the government of Morocco and the FAO prize from the FAO.

Although the language barrier (French, Arabic and Moroccan) and cultural differences are not inconsiderable when working with the counterpart* of the Ministry of Fishery and artisan fishermen, we commit ourselves to establishing an extension system that is deeply rooted in the tradition of Morocco through the continuation of steady dialogue.

(JICA Morocco Office)



Fire drill for local residents in the Forest Fire Prevention Management Project 2 in Indonesia

posiums and seminars to actively promote opinion exchange and public relations.

In fiscal 2003 cooperation in the field of natural environmental conservation resulted in 52 technical cooperation projects in 31 countries: 27 projects in Asia, two in the Middle East, six in Africa, and 17 in Latin America.

■ Cooperation in Economic, Trade, Industry Development

In the field of economic, trade, and industry development, JICA has provided cooperation concerning industry promotion for the small and medium-scale enterprises that will lead the future economic development, as well as cooperation concerning the development of mineral resources. In the last decade, more projects have been implemented to assist in establishing industrial infrastructure required to promote industrialization, management techniques across industries to improve productivity, environmental conservation along with progress of industrialization, and global issues such as securing energy. In the field of industry promotion cooperation, advanced technology such as Information Technology (IT) has been added to conventional technologies including metal forging and casting. In this trend, JICA has recently been implementing cooperation focused on the following three points.

First, cooperation is directed at industrial promotion with a focus on policy and institution-building and the promotion of trade and investment. With the founding of the World Trade Organization (WTO), international activities represented by Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) require improvements in institutions and standards based on international rules to promote trade and investment. JICA helps developing countries engaged in industrial promotion with institution-

building such as industrial standards and property and human resources development, and implements projects to strengthen the technical and administrative capacities of organizations in charge of building and implementing these institutions and standards. In fiscal 2003, JICA held workshops in the field of trade facilitation and investment targeting African countries jointly with the WTO.

The second type of cooperation is directed at promotion of IT. In line with a comprehensive cooperation package that addresses the international information gap announced at the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, JICA bridges the digital divide* in its cooperation activities while expanding ongoing cooperation towards the cultivation of IT related human resources and promotion of IT applications.

Finally, JICA takes an active approach to environmental and energy problems. Rapid industrialization promoted by developing countries expands the demand for energy, resulting in global issues related to natural resources and the environment across all developing and developed countries.

In order to secure stable supplies of electricity in developing countries, JICA supports the establishment of an electric technology standard and power supply technology, and implements energy conservation cooperation utilizing Japanese techniques in the effective use of energy, which Japanese industries have accumulated. The fact that JICA takes notice of measures against global warming that have been increasingly adopted by the international community is apparent in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Recognizing that the advance of global warming will influence developing countries in various aspects, thus obstructing their sustainable development, JICA has been actively adopting measures against global warming.

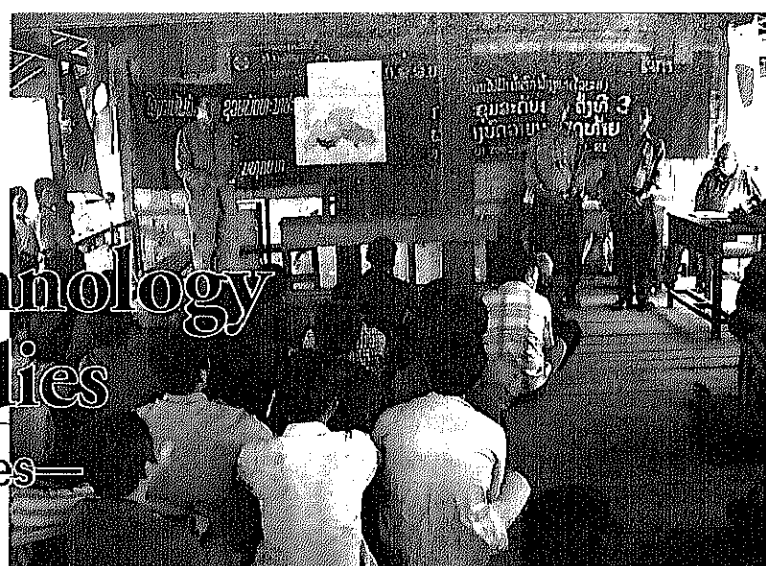
In the field of economic trade industry cooperation, using know-how JICA has acquired by the implementation of energy conservation projects, cooperation concerning Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is being examined. CDM helps developing countries bring in technology transfer* and investment and serves as a mean to reduce greenhouse gases for Japan.

In fiscal 2003, JICA commenced cooperation for capacity-building*, which will be the foundation of the sustainable development that suits the clean development mechanism of developing countries.

In the field of economy, trade and industry for fiscal 2003, 49 technical cooperation projects were implemented in 25 countries: 29 projects in Asia, nine in Middle East and Europe, and 11 in Latin America.

Transfer Technology through Studies

—Development Studies—



Explanatory meeting in Laos for development study

What is a Development Study?

■ Program Flow and Objectives

Development studies support the formulation of plans for public projects that are beneficial to social and economic development in developing countries. They also serve as media for the transfer of planning methods, and survey and analytical skills to counterparts* in the recipient countries.

Studies are conducted in line with “scopes of work” (S/W) agreed upon by JICA and the governments of developing countries. Under JICA’s guidance and supervision, consultants selected by JICA prepare reports in cooperation with the government concerned, and transfer technology during the process of development studies.

These reports prepared on the basis of study results provide recipient governments with data for assessing their social

and economic development policies. They also offer international organizations and donor* countries resources for studying the need for financial aid and technical cooperation. In many cases, plans proposed in these reports have been realized with financial assistance such as Japanese yen loans and grant aid cooperation. Skills transferred through the studies are also utilized when recipient countries work on projects with their own funds and carry out other studies.

Recently, the number of projects that incorporate direct policy proposals has been increasing, a trend that should open up a new phase for development studies.

Various Studies

■ Formulation of Development Plans

1. Master Plan Studies (M/P)

These are conducted to formulate comprehensive and long-term sectoral development plans for an entire country or for specific regions.

Master plans ensure efficient execution of multiple projects by making them mutually compatible and by clarifying their priority.

2. Regional Integrated Development Planning Studies

These present a basic strategy for development that emphasizes distinctive regional features and include integrated development plans for specific regions, while taking into account how best to form efficient links between various sectors.

3. Preparation of Basic Data

The following studies are carried out to gather and provide information needed to

Table 3-2 Fields Covered by Development Study

Field	Main Content
Planning and administration	Regional development plans; economic development plans
Public works	Water supply and sewerage; urban sanitation; waste disposal
Social infrastructure	Urban planning; rivers; erosion control; water resources; housing; cartography
Transportation and traffic	Transportation planning; roads; railroads; ports; airports; urban transportation
Communications and broadcasting	Mail; telecommunications; television and radio broadcasting
Health and medical care	Administration of health, medical care and hygiene; population and family planning
Agriculture	Agricultural and rural development; irrigation and drainage; processing and distribution of agricultural products; livestock
Forestry	Resource studies; social forestry; forest management planning; processing of forest products
Fisheries	Resource studies; processing and distribution of marine products; development of fishing villages; aquaculture; fishing ports
Mining and industry	Resource studies; industrial promotion; trade and investment promotion
Energy	Energy development; energy saving
Environment	Measures against air and water pollution; processing of industrial waste
Others	Development of human resources; education; commerce and tourism; management; others

formulate development plans.

- 1) Preparation of topographical charts
- 2) Development of groundwater
- 3) Development of forestry and fishery resources
- 4) Development of mineral resources

■ Project Implementation Assessment

1. Feasibility Studies (F/S)

Feasibility studies (F/S) examine objectively whether or not individual projects accorded priority in development studies and policies can be implemented for the formation of the most feasible project plans.

Feasibility is examined from various angles, including technology, economics, finance, social concerns, administrative organizations, institutions, and the environment.

2. Detailed Design Studies

These are concerned with creating the design drawings, work specifications, and tender documentation needed before

construction work can begin. More detailed than feasibility studies, they involve preparation of the design drawings required for construction, and precise calculation of construction costs.

■ Policy and Program Support Cooperation

1. Policy Support Studies

These aim at formulating basic strategy and comprehensive plans for promoting policies to ease the process of transition to a market economy and to open up markets through monetary and financial reform, adjustment of legal systems, and privatization of state and public enterprises.

2. Sector Program Development Studies

In fiscal 2001, JICA started the Sector Program* development studies, which aim at formulating and implementing development plans (program formulation, monitoring, and evaluation) to cover entire sectors through dialogue with governments of developing countries and other donors.

Front Line

● El Salvador Economic Development Study in El Salvador

Promising Future Highlighted by a Port in an Impoverished Area

Development Study

Light shed on a region left behind

In the eastern region of El Salvador, the economy is stagnant, depressed by the civil war that lasted nearly 20 years. It is called the Region Left behind. The poverty rate in all four eastern provinces is around 50%.

On the other hand, the east end of this region facing the Pacific Ocean is endowed with a port that can accept large container. Considering this port to be a key to national economic development, the government of El Salvador has decided to build a large-scale port. The port, whose development plan was formulated by a JICA development study, is named La Union, which carries the meaning of "community" in Spanish, and its construction is now under way with assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)*.

Port La Union is expected to not only be the key to national economic development, but also to provide neighboring countries with opportunities for trade expansion through its function as a distri-

bution center in Central America and to bring opportunities for the eastern region to escape poverty. With aspirations to vitalize the eastern region, strengthen national economic competitiveness, and promote trade in Central America by way of effectively utilizing the port, the economic development study commenced to draw up appropriate strategies.

Completion of the map of east development

The results of the study clarified the cost superiority of Port La Union over other ports in Central America, and specific trade and investment promotion strategies centered around the port were suggested, including effective management of the port, the development of the special district in the hinterland, and the development of transportation networks connecting cities and the port. In addition, programs for agricultural and industrial development based on water resources management and for the promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises were formulated so that the eastern region can



A workshop with the relevant local personnel of the target regions of the study

gain the capacity to fully maximize the opportunities brought by the port.

In the future, development is expected to proceed using the master plan formulated in the study as a map of the east development. JICA will provide cooperation based on the master plan, and at the same time will make efforts in acting as a coordinator of aid among donors to the eastern region. Concerted efforts between the government and aid organizations are about to take off toward a promising future highlighted by the port.

(Social Development Department)

■ Overseas Basic Studies

Small-scale studies are carried out for formulating simple development basic plans that require social approaches and analysis of various basic data related to the plans, as well as for maintaining inventory by local consultants instead of consultants dispatched from Japan. Today, since more field-led cooperation is possible, the number of implemented studies and areas of cooperation are both on the rise.

■ Follow-up of Development Studies

Following the implementation of development studies, including master plan studies and feasibility studies, additional studies are carried out to grasp the development of the individual projects and the utilization of study results. These are called follow-up studies. The results are reflected in the formulation and implementation of future development studies.

In fiscal 2003, 1,976 development studies implemented by JICA in the past were organized by country and region, by type of studies, and by targeted area in order to examine the conditions of individual projects and utilization of study results. Points to be improved were then compiled as recommendations in a report.

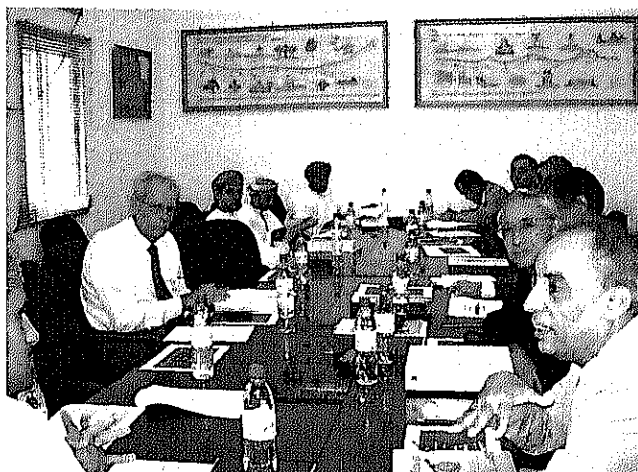
■ Significance of Feedback

As mentioned above, even after cooperation is complete, JICA attempts to grasp the current status of individual projects using information sent by JICA overseas offices and implements additional necessary assistance as follow-up cooperation. Also, we feedback the results and use them to carry out more effective and efficient projects.

Future Approaches

■ Strengthen Approaches Specific to Regions and Countries

It is strongly required to obtain an accurate picture of the



Conference on the Road Network Development Study in Oman

cultural, social and economic features of a recipient country, to examine its aid requirements, and to increase the effectiveness of aid. At the same time, we strive to ensure quality improvement in accumulated know-how, including directions and implementation methods by sector in order to implement effective and efficient projects.

■ Achieve Qualitative Improvements

In order to allow study projects to fulfill their original aims and be effectively applied, the project's technical reliability, funding possibilities and administrative capacity must be carefully examined. In order to contribute to better quality operations, fast and sufficient preparatory work and feedback from the results of previous studies are important. JICA has also been compiling basic region-specific, country-specific and sector-specific information to implement operations in precise response to diversifying needs.

■ Priority Global Issues

As for important development issues in the DAC New Development Strategy*, JICA has been engaged in projects in the field of health and medical care, education, and measures against poverty. These efforts will continue.

■ Increase in Policy-support and Reconstruction Support Projects

The issues faced by developing countries vary depending on their economic and financial conditions and technical standards. In response to such diversifying development needs, there has recently been an increasing number of policy-support projects in addition to developing infrastructure*.

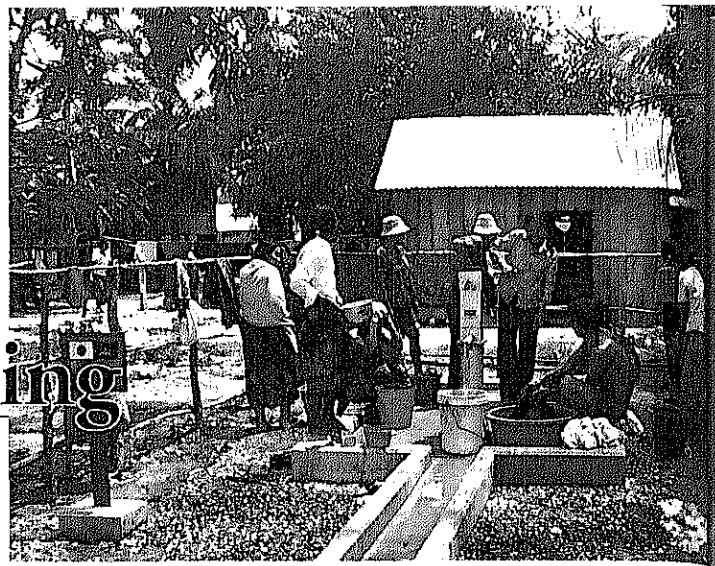
Development studies to provide support for post-conflict reconstruction are under way. JICA shall continue to respond carefully to recipient countries' development needs, for instance in the form of support for reconstruction and development following conflict and natural disaster.

■ Links with Other Forms of Aid

We further enhance and promote information exchange with grant aid assistance, loan assistance by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and loan projects provided by international financial institutions. Eighteen detailed design studies have been implemented in collaboration with loan assistance* projects thus far. This contributes to the coherent development from the study stage to project implementation as part of Japan's ODA. Collaboration with other aid agencies is also actively promoted.

3 Fund Aid for Nation-building

—Grant Aid—



A well constructed with grant aid and residents (the Project for Rural Drinking Water Supply in Peri-urban of Phnom Penh City, Cambodia)

From Research to Implementation

■ Scope of the Program

Grant aid is a program that provides funds to the governments of developing countries without the obligation of repayment in the form of ODA. The aim is to support economic and social development by helping the government of the recipient country introduce and upgrade its public facilities and equipment. The main categories of Japanese grant aid are as follows.

1) General grant aid

Grant aid for general projects (including grant aid for infectious disease control, grant aid for information technology (IT), grant aid for good governance*, grant aid for water resources and the environment, grant aid for rehabilitation*, grant aid for child welfare, grant aid to deal with antipersonnel mines, and grant aid for region-wide development), non-project grant aid (including Sector Program* grant and grant aid for conflict prevention and peacebuilding), Japanese grant aid for human resources development scholarships, grant assistance for grassroots projects* and human security*, and grant aid for Japanese NGOs.

2) Grant aid for fisheries

3) Grant aid for cultural activities (including grant aid for cultural heritage)

4) Emergency grant aid (including support for reconstruction and development)

5) Food aid* (Kennedy Round [KR])

6) Aid for increase of food production* (2nd Kennedy Round [2KR])

Of these categories, JICA is responsible for grant aid for general projects and Japanese grant aid for human resources development scholarship; grant aid for fisheries; grant aid for cultural heritage; food aid; and aid for increase of food production.

JICA's work can be classified as follows.

1) Preliminary examination

The content of requests for grant aid, the scale of the projects, and the approximate costs are checked.

2) Implementation of facilitating activities

Grant aid projects that begin after the signing and exchange of intergovernmental agreements (Exchange of Notes [E/N]) are examined to ensure that they are being executed according to the E/N and guidelines of the Japanese grant aid cooperation. Other necessary activities are also carried out.

3) Follow-up activities

These activities aim to maintain and enhance the effects of an implemented project.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) provides the funds for grant aid projects.

■ Criteria for Target Countries and Projects

Countries eligible for grant aid are determined based on the financing guidelines of the World Bank. Projects are concerned with nation-building and poverty alleviation in developing countries, and the countries receiving this aid should be unable to undertake the projects with their own funds and borrowing capacity. Projects entailing commercial profit, high-tech projects out of line with the technical levels of the recipient country, and those which run the risk of being channeled to military ends are ineligible.

Grant aid is made available mainly for social development in such fields as education; health and medical care; daily water supply and rural development; upgrading of public infrastructure* such as roads, bridges, and airports; and environmental conservation projects.

The grant aid program thus gives priority in particular to basic human needs (BHN)* projects that meet the most basic needs of human life. It contributes to nation-building in recipient countries while ensuring wide-ranging linkage with technical cooperation provided by Japan and other donors* (donor countries and agencies).

Flow of JICA Grant Aid Implementation

In response to directives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JICA embarks upon a basic design study (B/D)* involving basic design and cost estimation.

Such studies are generally performed by consultants under contract; 127 basic design studies were carried out in fiscal 2003. In cases where the content of a promising project proposal seems to require further on-site examination, a preliminary study may occur before the basic design study. In fiscal 2003, 47 preliminary studies were performed.

Once the studies are completed, projects are presented to the Cabinet after consultations on practicalities between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. A final decision is made once the Cabinet has given its approval. Projects brought before the cabinet in fiscal 2003 included 130 grant aid contributions for general projects, 20 Japanese grant aid contributions for human resource development scholarships, six grant aid contributions for fisheries, one grant aid contributions for cultural heritage, 20 food aid projects and 14 grant aid contributions for increase of food production

projects.

Definitively approved grant aid projects are initiated with the signing of an E/N by the Japanese government and the recipient country. Grant aid projects begin with the conclusion of contracts between the recipient government, Japanese consultants and contractors. JICA ensures that projects are implemented smoothly by recommending consultants and providing guidelines for Japanese grant aid outlining the basic approach to the project.

Once a grant aid project has been completed and handed over to the government of the recipient country, we provide follow-up cooperation if the developing country's government is unable to maintain and manage facilities and equipment constructed by the project on its own. Follow-up cooperation includes the dispatch of experts and study teams to carry out repair and construction work. Cooperation to restore the essential function of facilities built with grant aid is sometimes provided through supply of new equipment or spare parts.

Front Line

● Zimbabwe Nyakomba Irrigation Development Project

Supporting Small-scale Agriculture in Rural Black Communities

Grant Aid

Managing stable irrigated agriculture

Agriculture in Zimbabwe is mainly divided into large-scale commercial agriculture owned by a small number of white farmers and small-scale agriculture by a large number of black farmers. Japan provides technical cooperation to small-scale agriculture by black people. Since the 1980s, JICA has constructed small-scale irrigation systems with grant aid in rural black communities in the central part of Zimbabwe and has made considerable progress in poverty alleviation and increasing food production. A recent case is the Nyakomba irrigation project that was implemented from 1998 to 2000.

Nyakomba is an agricultural village located at the border with Mozambique, and is located in the area where development still lags. Since agriculture in this area depends on rainwater, it was easily affected by drought and suffered serious food shortages many times. More stable irrigated agriculture not affected by the

weather condition was needed.

Impact of irrigation on entire lives

In the Nyakomba irrigation project, water was pumped from the river at the foot of the village and into the irrigation facilities to supply water to the fields and other facilities necessary for farming. Specifically, pumps, a farm pond, division works, water channels in fields, farm roads, and a simplified crop assembly and shipping station were provided.

With the construction of an irrigation system in this project, tri-annual crops became possible, and at the same time the food shortage problem was solved, the income of farmers was greatly increased, and the living standards of the farmers were outstandingly improved. Now children go to school, houses are built or renovated, and the living environment is better.

Furthermore, women and children previously had to bear most of the labor by going as far as a kilometer to the river to



Corn cultivation realized by irrigation

fetch water and carry it home, but with this irrigation system, they can have water from the division works or the water channel right next to their homes, and they have been released from the burden of having to fetch water.

Thus, the small-scale irrigation project with cooperation from Japan has had a great impact not only on farmers but also on the entire community.

(JICA Zimbabwe Office)

Responding to Diversifying Needs and Ensuring Quality Improvement

■ Clarifying the Result Indicator

The Project Planning Sheet details the objectives, contents, and result target of a project for a basic design study. Furthermore, consistent with the research summary, JICA endeavors to ensure increased transparency while disclosing this information in the format of a report.

■ Improving Project Monitoring

Grant aid projects are realized after the Japanese government has examined the approximate project costs that have been calculated through the basic design studies. JICA investigates calculation details in line with requests from developing countries. Furthermore, technical advisors for implementation of grant aid projects are dispatched to the field to confirm progress at the implementation stage.

JICA is working to provide guidance for initial project operation and maintenance/management of the facility and

equipment provided. JICA strengthens coordination with technical cooperation projects and makes efforts to ensure that implemented grant aid projects are used in a sustainable and effective manner in the recipient countries, while liaising with the activities of other aid agencies when required.

■ Project Cost Reduction

Japan's grant aid is constantly appraised in terms of quality by governments of partner countries and other donors (donor countries and agencies). In order to implement more efficient projects to reflect the difficult situations surrounding ODA in Japan, every effort for reducing expenses at the basic design study stage is being made in consideration of characteristics of regions and sectors.

■ Information Disclosure and Publicity

JICA endeavors to disclose information related to various guidelines, studies to be implemented, tender results, etc., utilizing JICA Plaza and its homepage from the perspective of transparency in projects.

Front Line

● Syria

Dispatch of Senior Volunteers and Human Resources Development

Toward a Stable Supply of Electricity

Grant Aid, Senior Volunteers

Huge electricity loss

Electric power in Syria is managed by two ministries: thermal power plants by the Ministry of Electricity and hydraulic power plants by the Ministry of Irrigation. Under the Ministry of Electricity, the Public Establishment of Electricity Generation and Transmission manages power plants and transmission, and the Public Establishment for Distribution and Exploitation of Electric Energy manages distribution. The total capacity of electric power facilities in Syria is about 7,014,000 kW and power plants involved with aid from Japan account for 53% of the total capacity. Four out of 13 thermal power plants were made in Japan and all of the four plants are placed in the top five in terms of generation capacity. However, 26% of the total electric power capacity is lost due to reasons such as facility failure of plants, facility failure of substations, and other general insufficiencies in construction techniques. The result is estimated at about 10,000 US

dollars loss per day. Nevertheless, electricity demand has been increasing at a rate of 8% annually since 2000, and reinforcement of electricity generation is urgently required.

Human resources development in the Electricity Technology Institute

In response to tight electricity demand, a group of senior volunteers was dispatched to the Electric Power Training Center in Jandar, which was established with grant aid for the purpose of improving operation and maintenance skills in October 1998. At present, five volunteers (welding, machine tool, electric equipment, non-destructive inspection, group coordinator) have been dispatched to improve the maintenance and management skills in the first phase, and they are making efforts to lower electricity losses due to human error by teaching engineers in charge of maintenance and management of power plants everything from basic



Senior volunteers and their counterparts*

technologies to the latest technologies. Along with the dispatch of senior volunteers, eight engineers received country-specific training held in Japan in fiscal 2003. The second phase in the future will involve a shift to training operating engineers involved in the actual operation of power plants. JICA continues to cooperate in developing human resources who will play a leading role for stable supply of electricity in Syria.

(JICA Syria Office)

4 Fundamental Program for Human Development

—Acceptance of Technical Training Participants—

Road construction training for Afghanistan

Transfer Know-how and Technology

■ Training Participants to Contribute to Nation-building

The Acceptance of Technical Training Participants Program involves the transfer of knowledge and technology required by respective countries through the training of key administrators, technicians and researchers in developing countries and regions. This is the most fundamental human development program implemented by JICA.

The program has grown steadily not only in scale but also in terms of content since its launch in 1954. JICA has been working on training related to global issues* such as the environment and HIV/AIDS and new issues such as support for democratization and transitions to market economies, in addition to basic development fields such as administration, public works, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, education, health and medical care, mining, and industry. In fiscal 2003, 8,066 people from 149 countries and regions took part in this program in Japan, while another 6,531 people participated in the program in developing countries.

Of those who have received this technical training, many are now contributing to nation-building in various ways, including national leaders, top-ranking researchers, administrators, and the leaders of farming communities. The alumni associations of former training participants formed in 85 countries are cementing the bonds of friendship between their countries and Japan. Since its launch, JICA has accepted approximately 275,000 participants in this training program.

■ Methods and Features of the Training Program

In contrast to other programs, the Acceptance of Technical Training Participants Program enables more mobile and direct assistance. As such, the program allows for the initiation of a smooth approach to urgent issues such as transition to democracy and national reconstruction.

There are three features and advantages in implementing this program in Japan.

- 1) Participants are able to see how new techniques and ideas not yet available in their own countries are applied.
- 2) Japan's experience is transmitted to the world at large.
- 3) Participants have the chance to exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues from other countries that are facing similar issues.

In addition to training activities in Japan, there is also an overseas training program that allows organizations in developing countries that were fostered through Japanese technical cooperation to provide training for people from their own or neighboring countries. The merits of this type of training are: (1) participants can acquire know-how from people whose countries have similar technical levels, languages, and natural environments; and (2) overseas training can be implemented at lower expense than training in Japan.

Strengthening the Country- and Issue-specific Approach

To solve problems in developing countries, cooperation in accordance with the real situation of each country is necessary, and JICA is strengthening country-specific approaches. Accordingly, in acceptance of training participants, effective human resources development appropriate to development issues in the country is promoted through training provided as a component of a technical cooperation project implemented overseas or training in a group from one country for a certain period of three to five years.

Likewise, in order to correspond to common issues shared by several countries in a region and development issues common to all developing countries, training courses based on issue-specific approaches are being promoted.

Acceptance of Foreign Students

In addition to conventional training programs, in fiscal 1999 JICA started a long-term training program that accepts



El Salvadorian training participant taking indigo dyeing training in Kamitita Town, Tokushima prefecture

foreign students who wish to acquire degrees such as Master and Ph.D in Japanese universities with the aim of acquiring more advanced and specialized knowledge and skills. Young administrative officers and researchers who are prospective leaders of their countries can participate based on requests

from government-affiliated organizations in the program. At present, about 250 people take the program in a year.

The Ethnic Japanese Society Leader Development Program started in fiscal 2000 for the purpose of developing human resources who will lead future ethnic Japanese society and contribute to the development of the countries where they reside as liaisons between those countries and Japan. Forty-two foreign students have been accepted so far.

In addition, Japanese grant aid for human resources development scholarships, for which JICA facilitates implementation, commenced in fiscal 2000. Young administrative officers and business people who are expected to play key roles in the development of recipient countries are being accepted and they will acquire Master's degrees in Japanese universities. This scheme is conducted for 10 countries and 239 people came to Japan to study in fiscal 2003.

Furthermore, personnel related to JICA programs have received Japanese government scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology. In fiscal 2003, 26 people came to Japan.

Front Line

● Osaka Maternal and Child Health Course as Country-specific Training for Indonesia

Introducing Maternal and Child Health Handbook to Indonesia

Acceptance of Technical Training Participants

Disseminate knowledge to pregnant women and nursing mothers

Maternal and child health handbooks have become a fixture in Japan. Did you know that this system started in Japan? It was created for the dissemination of knowledge related to pregnancy, delivery, and newborns to pregnant women and nursing mothers during the war, when rates for infant mortality and maternal mortality were high.

This maternal and child health handbook was introduced in Indonesia in 1994 through cooperation from JICA. At that time the infant mortality and maternal mortality rates were high, and it was adopted to improve the situation.

The JICA Maternal and Child Health Handbook Project started in Indonesia in 1998. As part of the activity, the Maternal and Child Health Course has been provided as country-specific training for Indonesia since fiscal 2002 at the JICA Osaka International Center. Though the

project terminated in fiscal 2003, the training course will continue until fiscal 2004.

Collaboration with an NPO and local governments

The implementation of this Maternal and Child Health Course is entrusted to Health and Development Service (HANDS), a nonprofit organization (NPO) that has a thorough knowledge of the situations regarding maternal and child health in both Indonesia and Japan. The purpose of the training is to understand the maternal and child health policy and the application of maternal and child health handbooks in Japan, and to effectively promote the system after returning home. Gaining cooperation from local governments, including Saitama prefecture and educational institutions like Osaka University, Kobe University, and Saitama Prefectural University, has helped carry out training with a wide range of subjects. Training participants



Training participants visit and observe a Japanese medical institution

present action plans that specify how they will spread maternal and child health handbooks after returning home at the end of the training course.

The introduction of maternal and child health handbooks has proved to be effective in lowering infant mortality and maternal mortality rates in Indonesia. They are going to revise the maternal and child health handbooks themselves from now on.

(Osaka International Center)



Essay contest award ceremony at the 20th Anniversary Event of the Youth Invitation Program

Develop Young People as Future Leaders

—Youth Invitation Program—

Human Resources Development, Citizen Participation and Regional Internationalization

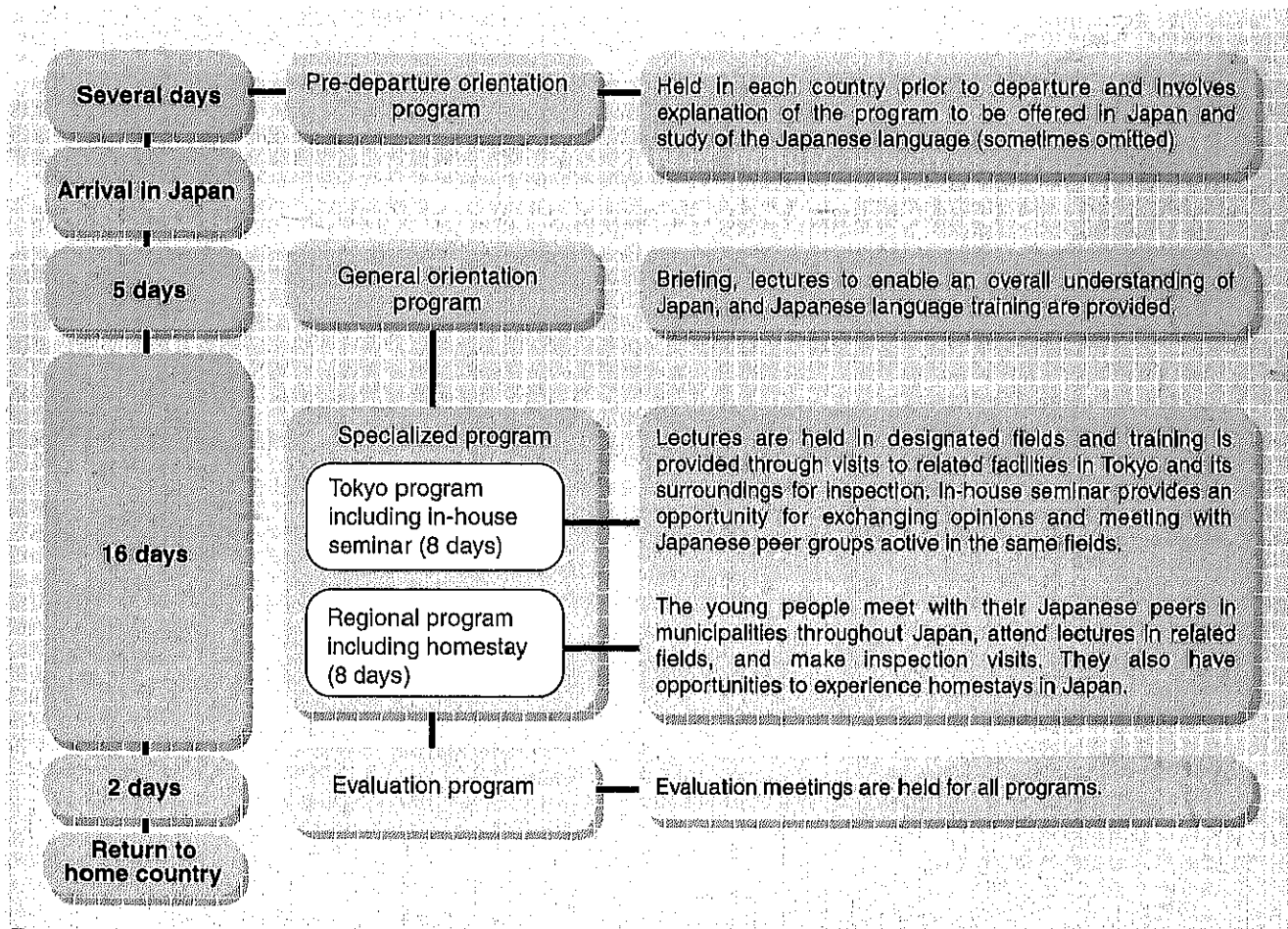
The Youth Invitation Program is part of JICA's support for personnel training. Young people under the age of 35 from developing countries who will lead nation-building in the future are invited to Japan to train in their fields of specialization and interact with Japanese people. Since the program was started in 1984, it has gradually spread to include Asia, Oceania, Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, the Middle

East, and the Caucasus. In fiscal 2003, 1,625 young people from 110 countries took part in the program, and more than 26,000 have visited Japan since its inception.

■ Developing Human Resources through International Exchange

Young people are invited in groups on the basis of prior classification in line with their specialization, such as education, economics, regional development, administration, and agriculture and forestry. For example, in the field of education,

Figure 3-3 Structure of the Youth Invitation Program



training includes lectures related to education, visit to education-related sites and opinion exchange with Japanese teachers.

The Youth Invitation Program aims not only to enable participants to increase their knowledge in their fields of specialization but also to foster a better understanding of Japan and Japanese people, including such aspects as culture and history. One of the main features of the program is a balance between training and exchange.

Among the ingredients of the program is a course of Japanese language study in which Japanese volunteers show participants around the areas they are staying while teaching them practical Japanese; in-house seminars at which participants and young Japanese spend a number of days and nights together to engage in discussions and exchange activities; and homestay programs in local areas. These programs are appreciated by the young people invited.

■ Contribute to Regional Internationalization

The Youth Invitation Program was undertaken by organizations in 41 Japanese prefectures in fiscal 2003. The number of Japanese citizens who have been involved with the invited participants is around 300,000. These activities allow the Japanese participants to experience international cooperation

and exchange, contributing to heightened international awareness in the regions. Opportunities to visit schools also help promote education for global understanding.

■ Alumni Activities and Expanding Renewed Exchange

In each member country of the ASEAN, young people who have participated in the program have formed alumni associations to carry out vital activities such as exchange projects with Japanese participants and interactions among participants.

In order to continue interacting even after the completion of the program, study groups are dispatched for the purpose of promoting post-exchange.

There are cases in which the participants of the Youth Invitation Program became members of the National Diet, local assembly members, university professors, high-ranking government official, or executives of private companies.

In February 2004, the 20th Anniversary Event of the Youth Invitation Program was held and the achievement made so far was confirmed. Japanese people who had been involved in the program, including members of ASEAN alumni association, former participants, and accepting bodies, were invited to the event. We will further promote public participation in this program in the future.

Front Line

● Okinawa Acceptance of Afghan Youths

15 Civil Officers Visit Okinawa, a Place of Peace

Youth Invitation Program

First youth invitation from Afghanistan

From January 26 to February 15, 2004, for the first time in the Youth Invitation Program, 20 young teachers and 15 civil officers of local governments and local departments of ministries and agencies were invited from Afghanistan.

Among them, 15 civil officers participated in a one-week program in Okinawa from February 5 to 12. The young officers inspected regional activities in health and medical care and the conditions surrounding vocational training that supported post-war reconstruction in Okinawa. They visited Yomitan village to observe its characteristic activities of town promotion featuring red sweet potatoes, a specialty of the area. They also learned about eco-tourism activities utilizing the abundant natural

environment of Okinawa, which is led by an NPO.

Getting to know one another

The Afghan youths held an open seminar to talk about history and the current situation of Afghanistan with residents in Okinawa. General participants commented that they were impressed with the way the youths talked about their home country vividly and by their smiles, even though it hasn't been long since the war ended.

Okinawa and Afghanistan have much in common in terms of direct experience of the violence of war and the inevitable civilian casualties. They also both have experience in being occupied by US troops. People in Okinawa have strong aspirations for peace even after achieving reconstruction and will never forget the severe



Afghan youths visit the Cornerstone of Peace

experience of the past and their huge sacrifice. The youths from Afghanistan appeared to renew their determination to reconstruct their motherland, Afghanistan, and realize their roles again in society through exchange with the people of Okinawa and following in their footsteps of reconstruction.

(Okinawa International Center)