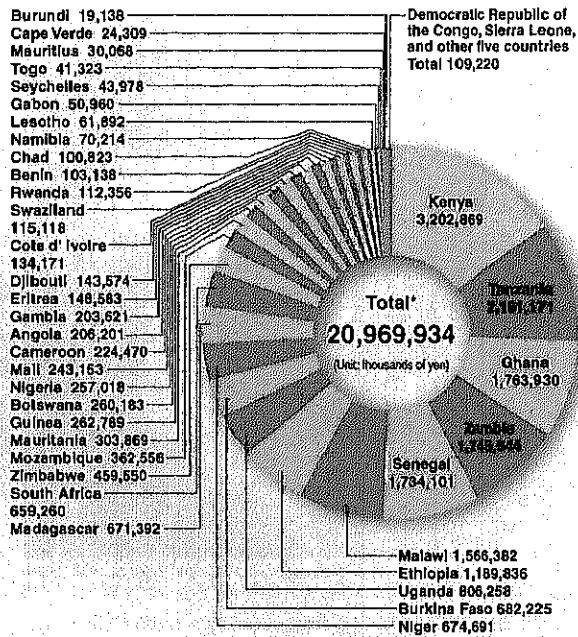


# Africa



## Pillars of Aid Ultimate Issue of "Poverty Alleviation"

■ Cooperation results by country (FY2004)



\*Total amount of cooperation provided to the countries listed in the graph

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. At the Asia-Africa Summit held in Indonesia in April 2005, the Japanese government announced a plan to host TICAD IV in 2008 and double its ODA to Africa over the next three years as its continued commitment to assistance for Africa.

JICA specifies poverty reduction on the basis of human security as the ultimate goal in African development. 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 will provide 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

### Current Situation of Africa

Thirty-four of the world's 49 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 less than US\$1 a day. In recent years, 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 25 countries are in Africa.

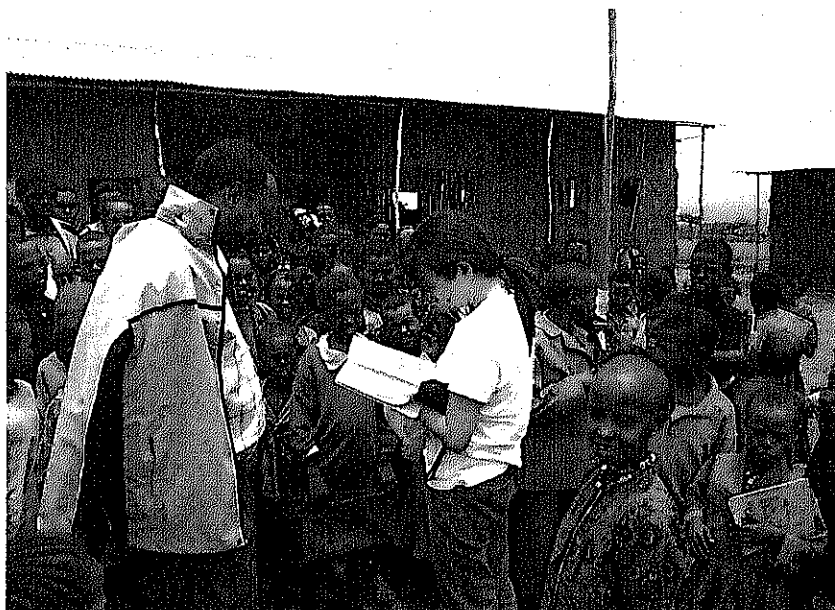
### Support for Africa in Transition

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 US\$13.9 billion in 2001 after peaking at US\$19.5 billion in 1992, due to aid fatigue in western countries in the 1990s. However, since 2001 western countries have announced an increase in aid volume for Africa and African development was discussed as the key agenda at the G8 Gleneagles Summit held in England in 2005.

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). Also, countries such as Eritrea, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan, which suffered from prolonged conflicts, are in their reconstruction stage following peace agreements. In October 2001, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a development initiative emphasizing the ownership of African coun-

tries, 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.



Support for the rural community, which endeavors to build and manage a school by voluntarily collecting funds and materials (Community-based Basic Education Improvement Project in Ethiopia)

## Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

### Building on TICAD .....

In fiscal 2004, JICA provided technical cooperation to Africa worth 21.2 billion yen. When grant aid (based on Exchange of Notes) is added, Japan extended support of approximately 60 billion yen and has attained the position as a major donor country for Africa.

The Japanese government held TICAD, TICAD II, and TICAD III jointly with the UN and other organizations in 1993, 1998, and 2003, respectively, in order to draw the world's attention to the importance of African development. At TICAD III in 2003, NEPAD support through the TICAD process was clarified as Japan's basic policy and the importance of the perspective of human security in African development was stressed. 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 was announced.

On the basis of the results of TICAD, with the awareness that the goal of African development is poverty alleviation, JICA promotes support for Africa.

### Strengthening Support for Africa .....

JICA has further promoted support for Africa in the past year through quantitative expansion and qualitative improvement. As a result, the volume of technical cooperation for Africa increased to 21.2 billion yen from 19.7 billion yen in fiscal 2003. With respect to the qualitative improvement, JICA has promoted effective coordination for technical cooperation, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), and grant aid. At the same time, JICA has addressed newly emerging development issues, such as consolidation of peace and aid coordination.

In addition to the above efforts, JICA has reinforced the implementing system of support for Africa: for example, opening new offices (Uganda, Gabon, and Benin), transferring authority and shifting personnel to overseas offices, and establishing regional support offices. Three regional support offices are in place in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa to technically support JICA offices in Africa (21 offices as of July 2005). As a result, groups of experts\* in education, health care, and agriculture who are stationed in the regional support offices in Kenya and Senegal are able to promptly visit neighboring countries to conduct studies on each country's situation and assist in the formulation of new cooperation projects. For example, one group studied the current situations in Sudan and another assisted in the preparation for the Improvement of Science and Mathematics Education Program in Uganda.

\* Regional support offices take charge of the following areas:

- Regional Support Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (within JICA Kenya Office)
  - (1) Agriculture and rural development, (2) education, (3) health care, (4) reconstruction assistance, (5) Asia-Africa cooperation, (6) aid coordination and public fiscal management
- Regional Support Office for West and Central Africa (within JICA Senegal Office)
  - (1) Agriculture and rural development, (2) education, (3) health care, (4) fishery
- Regional Support Office for Africa (accounting and procurement) (within JICA South Africa Office)
  - (1) Accounting, (2) procurement

### Development Approaches for Africa .....

JICA, based on the current situations in Africa described above, asserts its commitment to cooperation by integrating the approaches and perspectives of (1) human security, (2) approaches for PRSP, and (3) South-South cooperation.

## 1) Human Security

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

One is the rebuilding of devastated post-conflict nations, protection of people, and strengthening capacities. In countries such as Angola, Eritrea, and Sierra Leone, which are in the midst of the reconstruction stage following a peace agreement, JICA provides support for social stabilization and reconstruction 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 care administration and expand health 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.

## 2) Approaches for PRSP

It is important for the governments of developing countries to formulate strategy for poverty reduction 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 strategy promoted by the developing countries. Since the latter half of the 1990s, such PRSP approaches have been implemented in many countries.

JICA actively and continuously takes part in the formulation and implementation of the PRSP with an emphasis on cultivating ownership in African countries. A medium-term plan for resource allocation is essential for the effective imple-

mentation of PRSP, and thus both the governments of the partner countries and the donors work together to improve the fiscal management capacity of developing countries. JICA contributes to this movement through capacity building activities.

## 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.

Based on this concept, JICA has provided cooperation incorporating the perspective of South-South cooperation while underlining the policies announced at TICAD. In specific terms, JICA promotes (1) Asia-Africa cooperation and (2) intra-regional cooperation in Africa (including northern Africa).

In order to institutionalize Asia-Africa cooperation, in addition to ongoing activities, JICA has launched an activity to put together working-level officials in the area of rural community development. The purpose of this activity is to explore solutions to African development issues while sharing mutual experience and knowledge among working-level officials and jointly implement the solutions.

At the same time, intra-regional cooperation in Africa has started to expand. In order to promote mutual cooperation among African countries, JICA supports African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD), where higher education institutions in three eastern African countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) jointly research African development. Such activity supports development initiatives by African people, which respect the wisdom and knowledge inherent to Africa.



Support for the promotion of domestic rice production to improve the livelihood of farmers (Uganda)

# Actions for Priority Issues

## 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 basic education, is important.

At the same time, for African countries to promote poverty reduction in a sustainable way and 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 living standards, and upgrading basic infrastructure such as local roads and electrification.

## Human-centered Development .....

In the field of basic education, in addition to construction of school buildings with grant aid, JICA is making efforts to improve the quality of secondary science and mathematics education in Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and other countries with consideration given to balance with supply of primary education. In recent years, JICA has 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, 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.

Specifically, while assisting with improving the organizations and institutions of health 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 the entry point in AIDS care and treatment. JICA supports VCT by providing inspection kits. 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 volunteer 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, JICA is implementing technical cooperation aimed not only at technicians but also at community organizations, such as water administration unions in Ethiopia and Senegal.

## Poverty Alleviation through Economic Development .....

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 high-yield Asian strains and desiccation-tolerant African strains, based on farmers' participation.

From the viewpoint of impact to areas not covered by a project, JICA deploys aid on national and sector-level scales with a focus on geographical impact. Examples are (1) policy support type cooperation like the agriculture sector program development study in Tanzania, (2) establishment of an efficient dissemination system and capacity-building, (3) support for research activities, and (4) pilot projects with actually bearable cost.

On the other hand, due to insufficient infrastructure, the distribution system contributes to the weakening of 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.

As for construction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, broadcasting and communication systems, assistance is provided primarily 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.

## 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. JICA extended more active support



for post-conflict reconstruction and improved governance in Chad, Sudan, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola in the previous fiscal year.

In response to the influx of refugees fleeing civil war in Sudan's Darfur region into Chad in 2004, JICA has supported local people living in refugee camps. By setting up a field office\*, JICA has provided emergency assistance such as local water supply and has also provided rural development

assistance as a medium-term cooperation. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in preparation for the 2005 presidential and parliamentary elections, JICA offered training to election administrators on voting registration and management skills necessary for the successful election in February 2005.

\* It serves as a field aid center established for a fixed period of time with specific objectives, such as peacebuilding and reconstruction assistance.

## **Front Line Ghana Rural and Health Improvement Project**

### **Aiming for Comprehensive Improvements in Regional Living Standards**

#### **Health improvement pilot project as the starting point**

The Birim North District of the Eastern Region in southern Ghana has one of the least developed social infrastructures in the country. JICA implemented a pilot health care project in this district as the first community empowerment program in Africa (at the time) for three years starting in 1998. Choosing a local NGO, the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG), which is highly regarded for its reproductive health activities, as a partner, JICA exerted efforts in disseminating family planning and maternal and child health care services at a grassroots level, nutrition improvement, and hygienic environment, as well as promotion of school health, all with the aim of improving health conditions for mothers and children.

Although the project purpose was achieved, it still seemed difficult for local people to conduct activities on their own without the help of PPAG and JICA. In order to support the self-help efforts of the local people, JICA launched a three-

year project, Rural and Health Improvement Project, in 2003, whose aim is the comprehensive improvement of regional livelihoods.

#### **Working toward self-sustaining development after the cooperation ends**

Steered by the regional working committees of each village and family health promotion volunteers consisting of one man and one woman in each village, the project has conducted enlightenment activities in order to disseminate family planning concepts in 15 villages. With the aim of handing the activities over to the local administration, such as district health centers, at the termination of the three-year cooperation, administrators of the local governments are learning methods for delivering better services to residents. "We will have bought two galvanized roof panels for the school by the time of your next visit," said a member of the Mothers' Club with confidence. Aiming for a comprehensive improvement of the residents' livelihood, this project conducts various income-gener-



Measuring the growth of babies and infants on a medical tour

ating activities, such as forming Mothers' Clubs, palm oil extraction, and soybean cultivation.

JICA has thus far supported the dissemination of the outcomes of the project through such activities as (1) promotion of health care education at high schools through the dispatch of JOCVs, and (2) technology transfer of participation methods and formulation of audio-visual educational materials through technical cooperation by experts. Vehicles provided by means of grant assistance for grassroots projects are currently used for medical tours of 15 villages.

In view of sustainability after the termination of cooperation, JICA will continue providing services on a proper scale in line with the local needs and making efforts for comprehensive regional vitalization.

(JICA Ghana Office)



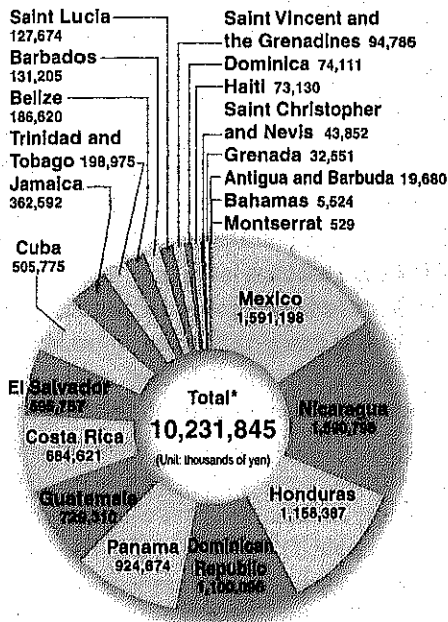
Members of the Mothers' Club working strenuously on palm oil extraction to improve income

# Central America and the Caribbean



## Pillars of Aid Aiming for Sustainable Economic Growth to Reduce Poverty

■ Cooperation results by country (FY2004)



\*Total amount of cooperation provided to the countries listed in the graph

Poverty reduction is the utmost priority issue in advancing development on the part of most countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Poverty reduction is vital for promoting peacebuilding in the region, where some countries have experienced internal conflict. To this end, sustainable economic growth to increase employment and improve the quality of people's lives is essential both in individual countries and the region. Considering the characteristics of the region, which consists of adjoining small countries, it is necessary to address issues on a global (regional) scale across national boundaries.

In order to address those priority issues in Central America and the Caribbean, JICA prioritizes cooperation in the following areas and contributes to human resources development and nation building while supporting self-help efforts on the part of aid recipient countries. JICA also gives consideration to regionwide cooperation, South-South cooperation, and aid coordination and collaboration with other donos.

- 1) Education  
Emphasis on expansion of basic education
- 2) Health and hygiene  
Emphasis on reproductive health, infectious disease control, improvement of regional health, support for persons with disabilities, and safe water supply
- 3) Agricultural and rural development  
It is necessary to improve agricultural productivity and the livelihood of the poor, as well as correct disparities between urban and rural areas.
- 4) Industrial development and development of socio-economic infrastructures  
Amid advancing economic globalization, it is important to vitalize small and medium-sized enterprises and promote trade and investment. Development of related infrastructures is essential for medium- and long-term economic development.
- 5) Environmental conservation  
As development advances, environmental pollution, destruction of the natural environment, and global warming must be urgently tackled. Furthermore, joint efforts across national boundaries with a regional-level perspective are critical.
- 6) Disaster prevention  
In preparation for natural disasters such as hurricanes, which affect the region every year, floods, and earthquakes, measures are urgently required on an administrative level as well as a community-level.
- 7) Citizens security  
Improvement of security is an issue shared by many countries.

## Current State of Development

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 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> and nine have populations of less than one million people.

When looking at the situation of the whole region, peacemaking proceeded in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala in the 1990s, and individual countries have worked on democratization and economic reforms, resulting in political and economic stability throughout the region, except for a few countries. Since adjoining countries in this region often

share not only histories, cultures, and languages, but also development issues, the movement has gained momentum towards regional integration and cooperation, as seen in the System of Central American Integration (SICA) and the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

However, disparities within and among countries are still very prominent, and poverty, security, and environmental issues have become more critical. Due to the characteristics of the region, which consists of a number of small adjoining countries, these issues have crossed national boundaries and influenced neighboring countries; therefore, the region needs proactive support from the international community to solve the problems.

## Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

**Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs by Country**  
**Mexico—Active Support for South-South Cooperation in the Region**

Mexico, the country with the largest land area and pop-

ulation in Central America, is one of the Central American countries with close ties to Japan, as represented by the Economic Partnership Agreement that became effective in April 2005. Whilst undertaking to raise its position in the

international community, Mexico still faces various issues such as domestic disparities among regions, especially underdevelopment of its southern states, industrial and regional development to catch up with globalization of economy, and simultaneous pursuit of environmental conservation and economic development. These issues are JICA's pillars for technical cooperation to Mexico. JICA also assists Mexico in implementing Mexican cooperation projects in other countries in the region.

### **El Salvador—From Reconstruction to Economic Development and Democratization**

Peacebuilding and economic reconstruction have been relatively smooth in El Salvador since the signing of a peace accord in 1992. Serious damage was caused by the hurricane of 1998 and the earthquake of 2001, and El Salvador has continued its strenuous efforts in reconstruction.

JICA's cooperation is provided in the priority areas of economic vitalization and employment expansion, social development, environment conservation for sustainable development, and consolidation and strengthening of democratization.

### **Nicaragua—Development Support for the Poorest Country in Central America**

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 cooperation for Nicaragua include agricultural and rural development, health, hygiene and medical care, education, disaster prevention, roads and transportation infrastructure, and support for democratization.

### **Guatemala—Toward Stable Security and National Reconciliation**

In Guatemala, since the signing of the peace accords between the Guatemalan government and left-wing guerril-

las in December 1996, efforts have continued 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 provides cooperation focusing on three areas, namely, improvement of rural living with consideration to indigenous people, sustainable economic development including the environment, and the consolidation of democracy.

### **Honduras—Cooperation Based on PRSP**

In Central America and the Caribbean, Honduras is one of the least developed countries after Haiti and Nicaragua. Now that reconstruction assistance from various donors following the enormous devastation caused by the hurricane of 1998 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 by Honduras in 2001.

The prioritized fields in Japan's aid include education, health, and development of impoverished areas.

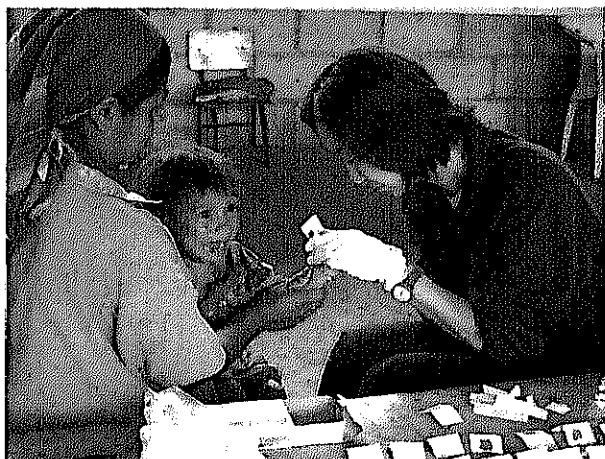
### **Costa Rica—Democratic Country Leading the Region**

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 with the priority on environmental conservation, quality improvement in civic life, and industrial development.

### **Panama—National Economic Reforms Centered on the Canal**

Panama, which relies heavily on service industries related to the canal, has advanced economic modernization and reforms with the prospect of a globalized market since the handover of the Panama Canal in 1999. While promoting free trade agreements with the US and other countries concerned, it has tackled domestic issues such as environmental con-



A JOCV checking the infection of Chagas' disease (Honduras): Chagas' disease is the most serious infection in Latin America after malaria.



Development of eco-tourism using nature as a means to diversify a key industry, tourism (Saint Lucia)



servation and poverty.

The reduction of poverty in rural areas, sustainable growth of economy and society, and environmental conservation are priority areas for JICA's cooperation for Panama.

### Dominican Republic—Poverty Reduction as Major Issue

Despite a high rate of economic growth that lasted until 2001, the poverty population has not been reduced and the gaps between rich and poor and regional disparities have not been eliminated. Therefore, poverty reduction persists as a major issue.

The priority areas of Japan's cooperation include poverty reduction in rural areas, strengthening regional health care, improving basic education, tourism promotion, promotion of trade and investment, and environmental conservation.

### The Caribbean—Regionwide Cooperation Activities

Most countries of the Caribbean are small in size and population, and have gained independence only in recent years. Japan's cooperation to these countries is rather small considering their relatively high per capita income and small economy. Japan does not have a strong record of coopera-

tion in these countries.

In the Caribbean, JICA provides regionwide cooperation in collaboration with regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) to address common issues in the region such as disaster prevention and conservation of marine resources.



Opening of a seismic test laboratory for the purpose of supplying highly aseismic housing, a lesson learned from the great earthquake of 2001 (El Salvador)

## Front Line Jamaica PC Maintenance by JOCV in Computer Engineering

### Aiming for a Model Case of IT Education

#### Disseminate PC management and simple repair skills

JOCVs specializing in computer engineering carry out activities throughout the world; however, their activities are frequently hampered by a lack of equipment in the field of assistance. The government of Jamaica places an emphasis on information and communication technology (ICT) education; however, the number of computers available at schools is limited and lessons are often given using blackboards and notebooks. In response, JICA is currently undertaking the management and simple repair work of personal computers (PCs), jointly with the Ministry of Education and Culture. JOCVs are dispatched to each branch agency of the Ministry of Education and Culture, which has jurisdiction over the schools across the country. They not only repair PCs, but also conduct workshops to enable teachers to repair PCs by themselves. The project aims to disseminate ideas for durable and dependable PCs and skills to repair them when they are broken, with the aim of maximizing educational opportunities for children who are deprived of sufficient education due to budgetary constraints.

JOCVs specializing in computer engineering in Jamaica learned that volunteers in other countries had similar problems, and then organized a regionwide workshop for volunteers and their colleagues in the Caribbean in December 2004. With the theme of "Establishment of PC Maintenance Training," the workshop was conducted to share information and experiences from past workshops and effectively disseminate them to wider areas. Although it was originated by JOCVs, the Ministry of Education and Culture was involved from the planning stage, and the workshop was prepared jointly. The workshop was a great success with the participation of headquarters officials of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Jamaica, directors of local branch agencies, and school teachers. The Minister of Education attended on the last day.

#### Aiming to disseminate a model to African countries

On the basis of skills and information gained from the regionwide workshop, many workshops have been held

throughout Jamaica in 2005. Materials prepared for the workshop are also available on the website at <http://jamaica.jocv.net/> for the use of JOCVs and related personnel worldwide.

It is hoped that workshops will be held in the Caribbean and the experiences will be shared with African countries. Jamaica was successfully developed by people who had been brought from Africa, and therefore JICA believes that the mission of the JOCVs is to present a development model to other Caribbean and African countries.

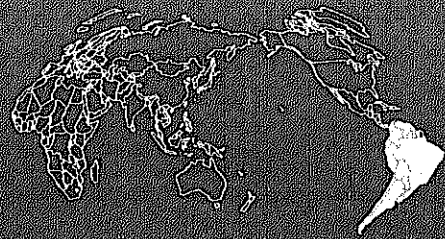
(JICA/JOCV Jamaica Office)



Regionwide training held for JOCV members and their colleagues in the Caribbean

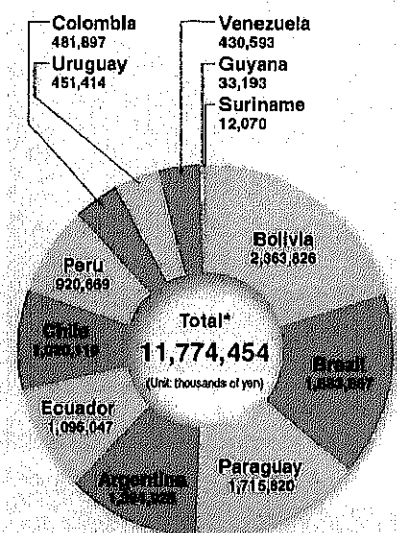


# South America



## Pillars of Aid Support Development for Disparity Correction

■ Cooperation results by country (FY2004)



\*Total amount of cooperation provided to the countries listed in the graph

In South America, democratic politics are rooted and the privatization of public projects and trade liberalization have been pushed forward. Due to similarities in history, culture, language, and social backgrounds in the region, movements toward regional cooperation and economic integration are also prominent. However, the region contains countries of a relatively high economic standard (medium-developed countries) and ones of a low standard (impoverished countries). Simultaneously, even medium-developed countries have localized poverty issues and the poverty group is expanding in spite of steady economic growth. Such poverty issues contribute to political and economic instability, social disorder involving drugs and public security, and environmental issues. From the perspective of human security, as well, solving these problems is a priority for each South American government, and requires international assistance.

The magnitude of natural resources, food supply capacity, and economic scale in South America imply

the possibility that political and economic disorder and worsening environmental destruction in the region may affect the international economy and the environment on a global scale.

JICA addresses the following priority issues in order to correct domestic and intra-regional disparities and realize sustainable development with the focus on the perspective of human security.

1. Support for poverty control aiming at disparity correction
2. Support for development of an investment environment and trade promotion measures
3. Response to environmental issues
4. Support for proper management of natural resources, maintaining and improving food producing capacity
5. Response to regional integration and promotion of intra-regional cooperation
6. Active collaboration with Nikkei (Japanese descendant) communities

## Current State of Development

### Expanding Poverty Group despite Economic Growth

In South America social disparities are historically prominent, triggered by colonial rule. In the 1980s, economic reform was promoted based on the policy of Neo-liberalism led by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. As a result, while economic growth was achieved, in many countries problems such as widening disparities, an expanding poverty group, and increasing social instability became more serious.

The economies of countries in South America greatly depend on primary products, and they are significantly affected by trends in the world economy. In order to maintain continuously stable economic growth, development of an investment environment, including promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and trade promotion measures, need to be supported.

One of the problems caused by poverty and economic growth is environmental degradation. Response to solid waste generated from gutters around the urban areas and water resources contamination, as well as global issues such as rapid deforestation in the Amazon, are urgently

required.

The South American economic zone, which is endowed with abundant resources and expandable food production and supply capacity, is crucial to Japan, which relies on overseas resources and food. On the other end, the countries of South America that are trying to grow out of economies dependent on exports of primary products need Japan's technology. In



The Project for Strengthening Health Networks—Improvement of Maternal Health (Bolivia)

this way, it is not too much to say that Japan and South America are in an economically complementary relationship.

MERCOSUR (Mercado Común del Sur) concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Andean Community in December 2003 and it is negotiating in the same manner with countries and communities outside the region such as India and EU. Technical cooperation projects within the region (South-South cooperation) is also active.

### The Presence of Japanese Emigrants and their Descendants

Cooperation in South America cannot be considered without the presence of communities of Japanese emigrants and their descendants (Nikkei). The emigration of Japanese people to South America started more than 100 years ago and immigrants from Japan and their descendents have established a solid position as reliable members of the local regional society. Nikkei succeeds in a wide area such as agriculture, health, and education, con-



Support for small-scale farmers in the inland arid area of Chile: Technical training in greenhouse cultivation for local farmers

tributing to the feeling of a strong affinity toward Japan and enhancing friendly relationships between Japan and the countries to which Japanese people have emigrated.

## Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

### Support for Poverty Control .....

In South America, JICA provides support to reduce disparities and address poverty issues with the focus on collaboration with central and local governments and civil organizations.

- Bolivia: The Project for Strengthening Health Networks—Improvement of Maternal Health
- Ecuador: The Study on Development for Reactivation of Productivity and Poverty Reduction in the Central-Southern Region (Azua and Canar)

### Development of an Investment Environment and Trade Promotion .....

In order to contribute to the promotion of intra- as well as inter-regional trading and investments, JICA extends assistance associated with economic development, industry promotion, regional development studies, and studies on the development of infrastructure (formulation of a master plan and a feasibility study). Japanese knowledge and technologies are also transferred by experts for the purpose of human resources development.

- Venezuela: Support for a Registration and Development System of Management Consultants for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- Paraguay: Leader Training for the Small and Medium-sized Companies

### Response to Environmental Issues .....

JICA provides cooperation in response to air pollution, water contamination, and waste treatment in urban areas, as well as to biodiversity and environmental conservation of the Amazon and Galapagos Islands.

- Brazil: The Project for Forest Conservation and Environmental Education in the Eastern Amazon
- Ecuador: Project on Conservation of the Galapagos Marine Reserve

### Proper Management of Resources, Maintaining and Improving Food Producing Capacity .....

JICA has cooperated in the survey and search for abundant mineral resources and provided assistance in response to mining pollution.

Moreover, in order to maintain and improve food productivity, JICA has conducted cooperation projects for sustainable agricultural development in South America.

- Bolivia: The Mining Environment Research Center
- Brazil: Strengthening the Agricultural Technical Support System to Small-scale Farmers in Tocantins State

### Response to Regional Integration and Promotion of Intra-regional Cooperation .....

JICA has begun the following wide-area cooperation for MERCOSUR, which has been stimulating the region.

- Study on Improvement of Packaging Technology for



Junior high and high school students participating in the Peace Sowing Project proposed by a JOCV to revive domestic agriculture decimated by civil war (Columbia)

### Merchandise Distribution in MERCOSUR Regional Products

#### • Project for the Promotion of Tourism

In addition, in support of intra-regional cooperation, so-called South-South cooperation, Japan has concluded the Partnership Program (PP) with Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. Targeting not only other countries in the region but also countries outside of the region such as those in Africa, the following cooperation has been provided.

- JCPP (PP with Chile): aquaculture in Cuba, livestock hygiene in Bolivia
- PPJA (PP with Argentina): livestock hygiene and popula-

Expert to cooperate for rehabilitation service improvement (Rehabilitation for Disabled People Project in the Republic of Chile) Photo by Kazuyoshi Nomachi



tion census in Paraguay and Bolivia

- JBPP (PP with Brazil): plantation technology of tropical plants and Cassava, public hygiene services (targeting Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Timor-Leste)

### Collaboration with Nikkei Communities .....

JICA implements projects in collaboration with Nikkei communities, for example, in the form of dispatching Japanese-Brazilian experts to other countries in the region. JICA will continue to strengthen the collaboration with Nikkei communities that have successful records of achievement in each region of South America.

## Front Line Brazil

### Project to Strengthen Community Health Service in Amazon Brazil

#### Improve Health of Forest Guardians to Protect the Amazon

##### Community like a small island floating in the ocean

Manicore City, which is the area of the project activity, is located in Amazonas State in the Amazon region of Brazil. Think of the Amazon rain forest as an ocean, with Manicore City a small island floating in the ocean. From remote communities scattered along the river to urban areas, the only means of transportation are boats. Only 40,000 people live in an area about the size of Kyushu. You can imagine how thinly distributed the population is.

The only way to improve the health care situation for this huge area and its inconvenient transportation is to transfer knowledge to residents in the communities regarding health care and work to prevent diseases and maintain health. There are many remote areas from which it takes one or two nights to move a sick patient to an urban area by boat. Prevention precedes treatment in Manicore.

##### Strengthening the capacity and motivation of community health workers

The project pays special attention to the community health worker system. They are not professionals like nurses, but rather general residents. In collaboration with a Japanese NPO, HANDS (Health and Development Service do Brasil), and the health department of Manicore City, JICA supports strengthening the capacity and motivation of community health workers through training, instruction on accompanying home visits, and promotion of collaboration with other local NGOs and community groups. The motivation and morale of community health workers have risen while they receive training related to health and giving health instructions to pregnant and parturient women, children, and patients with chronic hypertension.

Environmental protection is always talked about in the Amazon; however

when we actually meet people living there, we actually feel that steady efforts to improve the health conditions of the people living in the area is essential for sustainable development to coexist with nature. Reckless development cannot be carried out in a region with small-scale communities that survive on the blessings of nature. In that sense, they are playing the role of forest guardians who protect the valuable Amazon.

(JICA Brazil Office)



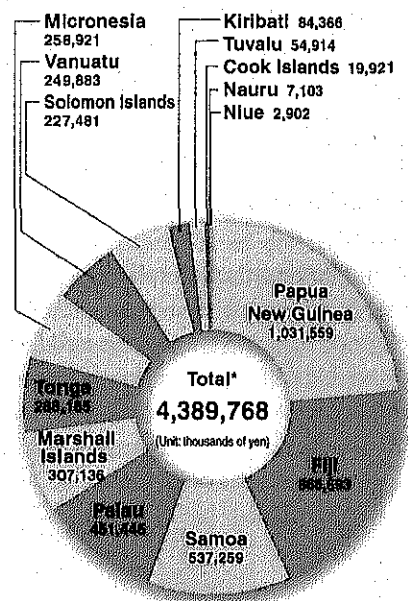
Demonstration instruction in brushing teeth

# Oceania



## Pillars of Aid Human Resources Development and Environmental Conservation Required for Sustainable Development of Small Island Countries

■ Cooperation results by country (FY2004)



\*Total amount of cooperation provided to the countries listed in the graph

The priority issue in Oceania is to develop societies that are independent from the former suzerain states. Developing human resources and building socioeconomic infrastructure are important for self-reliant administrative and social services, as well as for economic growth. In order to pursue sustainable development for these goals, emphasis is placed on proper resource development and environmental conservation.

In the area of human resources development, volunteers are dispatched mainly in the sectors of primary and secondary education, vocational training, and health; and many administrative officials are accepted as training participants. Distance learning using information and communication technology (ICT) is employed in providing cooperation in higher education. In the area of health, JICA supports the expansion of immunization and promote cooperation that addresses infectious diseases such as malaria and filaria.

With respect to the development of socioeconomic infrastructure, such as roads, ports, airports, and



Children in a coconut plantation settlement village (Vanuatu) Photo by Hiroshi Inoue

power and water supply, financial assistance for the construction of facilities and technical cooperation for the maintenance and operation of those facilities are combined.

Environmental problems represented by coral reef destruction and solid waste disposal have become serious. Regionwide cooperation crossing national borders is promoted to address environmental conservation, which is a global issue, as a common issue in Oceania.

## Current State of Development

### Vulnerable Economic Structure

The individual island countries of Oceania have small national territories, populations, and economies on the whole. Due to strong dependency on primary industries, most countries have fragile economic structures easily upset by weather conditions and fluctuations in international prices. Many problems remain to be tackled if these countries are to achieve economic autonomy. These problems are related to the fact that the countries often consist of large numbers of islands, their domestic markets are small, they are far from international markets, and transportation and communication links to compensate for these disadvantages are inadequate.

Relations between these countries and their former suzerain states are generally close, but in recent years, growth in bilateral aid and multilateral aid to developing countries in Oceania has remained stagnant. Following achievement of independence from the US, the three countries of Micronesia have been receiving financial aid in the form of "compact money" based on the Compact of Free Association

with the US. However, financial aid has recently started shifting to project-type aid.

### Building on the Results of the Third Japan-PIF Summit Meeting

Establishing societies and economies that are no longer reliant on aid is an urgent issue for the small island countries in this region. There are many issues that affect Oceania as a whole: solid waste control; environmental problems, including climatic change and rising sea levels; human resources development; and the development of inter-island transportation and communication. It is therefore essential to adopt a comprehensive approach to the region. Every country in the region places emphasis on promotion of regional cooperation to jointly address common issues, including reduction of the public sector and promotion of private investment leading to development in the main industries of agriculture, fishery, and tourism.

In May 2003, the third Japan-Pacific Islands Forum



Summit Meeting known as PALM 2003, was held in Okinawa with the participation of leaders and ministers from 15 countries and regions, all members of PIF excluding Nauru. At the summit, the Okinawa Initiative: Regional Development Strategy for a More Prosperous and Safer Pacific was adopted, setting priority policy targets in security, environment, education, health care, and economic growth, and clarifying joint action plans for Japan and PIF members. These issues should be addressed on medium- and long-term bases in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. JICA has implemented cooperation that fully reflects the results of the summit. In 2005, the final year (third year) of the action plans, further efforts are expected to be made to achieve the targets.



Cooperating to produce an education program that improves lesson quality (Papua New Guinea)

## Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

### Support for Self-reliance and Environmental Conservation

Every country in Oceania differs in respect of its national and economic size, ethnic composition, population, availability of natural resources, traditional social foundations, way of life, and the capacity of government to formulate and administer development plans. Finely tailored aid in line with development levels and specific development needs of each country is therefore required. However, since all these countries gained their independence relatively recently and are dependent on primary industries, human resources development is the most important. In addition, it is important to provide support that enables these countries to overcome the limiting factors that distinguish island countries (i.e., isolation, small size, and vulnerability).

There are two priority issues that affect virtually all the countries in this region, the first of which is support for social and economic self-reliance, and the second is environmental conservation and the proper management of resources for sustainable development. Efforts are needed to identify and formulate effective cooperation projects that will benefit the region as a whole. At the same time, it is necessary to work closely with other donors that possess knowledge of island



Residents listen to health management education provided by a regional circuit nurse (Fiji).

countries and international organizations active in the region.

### Support for Social and Economic Self-reliance

With regards to support for social and economic self-reliance, human resources development for nation-building must be combined effectively with improvements in infrastructure for the development of basic industries.

Cooperation for human resources development is being provided through the dispatch of volunteers and the acceptance of technical training participants with a view to creating a body of qualified people who will lead economic management, development planning and other leading industrial fields.

From the standpoint of upgrading the bases for key industrial development, in addition to infrastructure improvement in response to the needs of island countries, including communication and broadcasting, transportation, power, and roads, cooperation is taking place with emphasis on fishery, marine transportation, and marine resource development, such as aquaculture, promotion of small-scale fisheries, compilation of marine charts, shipping inspections, and exploration of seabed mineral resources.

### Environmental Conservation and Proper Management of Resources

In part of the region, destruction of seashore ecosystems, the indiscriminate catching of certain types of fish, the felling of tropical forests, and improper handling of solid wastes take place. In terms of environmental conservation and proper management of resources to enable sustainable development, JICA provides cooperation directly aimed at environmental conservation measures, such as conservation of coral reefs and solid waste management. One example of cooperation in this area is the Palau International Coral Reef Center (cooperation based on a Japan-US Common Agenda). The center, constructed with Japanese grant aid, is expected to become an international base for coral reef conservation and

research, and diverse technical cooperation, including monitoring of coral reefs and improving the aquarium built on the premises, and education and enlightenment activities are under way.

### Cooperation Beneficial Regionwide .....

In Oceania, coordination and collaborative cooperation with other aid agencies and international organizations take place. An example of cooperation that has benefited the region as a whole is a technical cooperation project in distance learning and information and communication technology based on the establishment of network facilities for distance learning that makes use of satellite communication for neighboring countries (a project in collaboration with New Zealand and Australia) at the University of the South Pacific (USP), which is a base for higher education for the 12 countries and areas in Oceania.

Other examples of cooperation conducted through international organizations active in the region include grant aid to the educational and training center of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme's (SPREP) headquarters and regionwide technical cooperation for the proper management of solid waste.

In the area of health, policies and planning for the implementation of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) are being improved in 13 countries and areas and regionwide technical cooperation is provided to nurture EPI field workers. As a partner in the Pacific Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (Pac ELF), which is implemented by WHO targeting 22 countries and areas in the region, since 2000 JICA has provided medicine and examination kits and has dispatched JOCVs under a five-year plan.



Training participants from member countries of PIF learn waste disposal technique.

## Front Line Fiji

### Capacity Strengthening for Environmental Impact Assessment Officers

#### Seeking Coexistence of Development and Environment

##### Coral reef damaged by wastewater from resort

Tourism is the number one key industry in Fiji at present, and many resort facilities are being planned and constructed across the country thanks to active support from the government and the Ministry of Tourism. However, an NGO called Greenpeace pointed out that the coral reef in the surrounding beautiful sea was damaged by contaminated wastewater from resort facilities several years ago. To protect and maintain the coral reef, which is a valuable tourism resource itself, needs for an environmental impact assessment have become great; however, implementation of an environmental impact assessment



Instructors and students of USP visit resort development field.

requires human development on the side of the administration as well as the development of legislation.

The Fiji government has instructed a development company to install a reliable wastewater treatment system as a condition for approving new resort development by the environmental impact assessment. On the other hand, with regards to existing resort facilities, it was preconditioned that the current situation of equipment related to contaminated wastewater be obtained first and then water quality investigation be implemented based on scientific data.

##### Creating a manual to improve environmental management

First, the Fiji government and JICA implemented an investigation into water quality and the current situation of the contaminated wastewater treatment facilities of about 40 comparatively large-scale facilities on Yasawa and Mamanuca Islands, as well as the Coral Coast where resort facilities are concentrated, using JICA's study fund. This study was entrusted to the Institute of

Applied Science of the University of the South Pacific, and the result of the study showed that more than half of the facilities need improvement.

In response to the study, a workshop was held for the responsible persons at all of the resorts and related personnel of the government in order to emphasize the necessity of improving the facilities. In cooperation with the University of the South Pacific, "Improving Wastewater Management in Fiji's Tourism Industry: A Booklet for Resort Operators" was created and distributed to the resort hotel association and related organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

The process to create this booklet reinforced a trusting relationship among the concerned personnel in government related organizations. In March 2006, the Environment Management Act was enacted and an environment that allows improvement instruction for the contaminated wastewater treatment facilities of existing resorts in a more efficient and enforceable manner was in place.

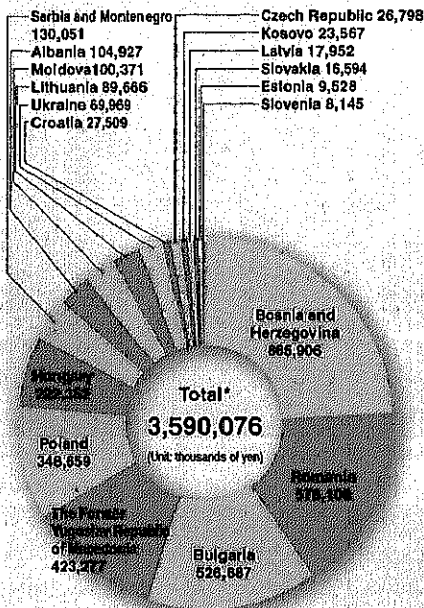
(JICA Fiji Office)

# Europe



## Pillars of Aid Aiming for Consolidation of Peace and Economic Development in the Western Balkans

■ Cooperation results by country (FY2004)



\*Total amount of cooperation provided to the countries listed in the graph.

Aid for Europe started with support for transition to a market economy in Poland and Hungary in 1989, and has expanded from central and eastern Europe to the western Balkans. The assistance from liberal developed countries such as the US, Japan, and the nations of Europe have had the goals of reconstruction of socioeconomic systems, transition to a market economy, and integration into the EU. Since 10 countries in central and eastern Europe acceded to the EU in May 2004, judging that those countries have achieved necessary social and economic reform, assistance to these countries has been shifted to Balkan countries.

For Romania and Bulgaria, whose accession to the EU in 2007 is being discussed, JICA extends cooperation to improve and upgrade their socioeconomic situation in view of their

graduation from aid.

In contrast, in the western Balkans, the effects of conflicts remain, and the sources of instability exist. Since economic reconstruction has just started, JICA has shifted its focus in central and eastern Europe to the western Balkans.

In the western Balkans, JICA has primarily worked on the reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure so far. In the future, based on the discussion in the Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans held in Japan in 2004, JICA's aid will underline consolidation of peace and economic development. In particular, an approach from the perspective of human security is important for the consolidation of peace.

## Current State of Development

### Support Shift from Central and Eastern Europe to the Balkans

Many countries in western Europe enjoy progressive industrialization and economic development. Prior to the collapse of the Cold War paradigm, Japan provided limited aid to Cyprus, Malta, Albania, and the former Yugoslav

Federation.

With the end of the Cold War, in the countries of central and eastern Europe, which was under the system of centrally planned economies led by the Soviet Union, the inefficiency of economic management led to an economic collapse. In 1989, Poland and Hungary led the way from socialism by introducing market economies, followed by other countries in economic and social reform. The developed countries positively evaluated these reform efforts in transition to market economies and decided to provide support; in July 1989 they established the Group 24 to conduct assistance for central and eastern Europe. It was also decided that cooperation shall be provided within the framework of G24. In line with these resolutions, since 1989 the Japanese government has been extending the range of its aid operations from Poland and Hungary to other countries in eastern Europe in succession. Aid in the form of ODA commenced to the three Baltic states, Ukraine, and Moldova, which all gained independence from the Soviet Union.



JOCVs introducing Japanese culture in a primary school for Roma (The Kazanlak Area Revitalization Project, Bulgaria)



# Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

## Differential Approach by Recipient Group.....

Most of these countries in Europe advanced national economic and social reforms for the purpose of acceding to the EU. As a result, 10 countries—Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Cyprus, and Malta—became member states of the EU in May 2004. Bulgaria and Romania are expected to join the EU in January 2007. Though each country has its own problems to be solved and disparities among member states exist, they met the membership criteria in terms of politics, society, and economy in accession to the EU, and therefore it is acknowledged that they have reached a certain development standard.

In contrast, the western Balkans consisting of former Yugoslavia countries are underdeveloped due to conflicts and a worsened economic environment. Ukraine and Moldova have not rid themselves completely of the former planned economy. For these countries, support from the international community is still called for.

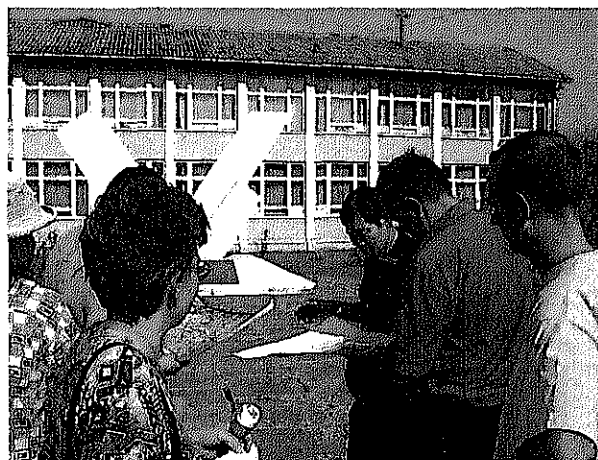
## Bulgaria and Romania—In View of Accession to the EU

Bulgaria and Romania, which fall behind in their accession to the EU in central and eastern Europe, look to accede in January 2007. JICA has supported both countries primarily in transition to a market economy and environmental conservation as other eastern European countries. In view of their accession to the EU, JICA will implement cooperation with attention to institution building in these priority areas, sus-

tainable development through human development, and building a mechanism for shifting from ODA to cooperation from the private sector.

## Western Balkans—Ethnic Reconciliation and the Consolidation of Peace

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) and Serbia and Montenegro, both of which were in the conflicts of former Yugoslavia, have made progress in the restoration of infrastructure and are regaining social stability. Thus, aid needs are shifting from reconstruction to development. However in the western Balkans, in addition to these countries, neighboring Macedonia and Albania also contain several ethnic groups



Expert providing instruction on field study for map making (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

## Front Line Former Yugoslavia Region • Support for Digital Map Making

### Compile Geographic Information as the Basis of Nation-building

#### Maps are essential to nation-building

The area once known as Yugoslavia, which was described as "seven borders, six republics, five ethnic groups, four languages, three religions, two alphabets and one Yugoslavia," is now divided into five countries due to civil wars that took place in the 1990s.

When it was a single entity the map of Yugoslavia was created and controlled by the measurement bureau of the federal forces, and the original edition is still stored in Belgrade. The independent countries that emerged after the conflict use the map created in the 1970s without being able to update it. However, the latest geographic information is essential to promote national development plans such as development of various infrastructure, environmental conservation, and land utilization. Consequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia

requested Japan to make a development study related to digital map making.

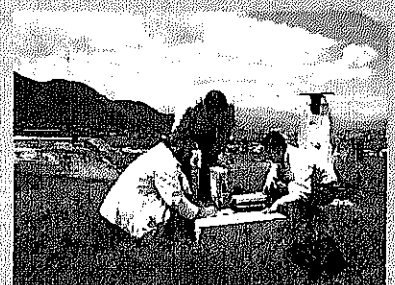
#### Create a digital map and transfer the technology

In creating a digital map, first aerial photos of the country are taken from an airplane and a contour map is drawn by analyzing the photos using specific equipment. Taking aerial photos was never easy, since unexpected bad weather often continued for days and it took time to receive permission for aerial photography from neighboring countries. However once the photo information was gathered, the local staff worked hard to make up for the lost time.

In the former Yugoslavia region, because the contour map is recognized as military information and it is also expensive, it was not the custom for the public to utilize it. Therefore, during a study carried out in Macedonia, a map

contest was held for primary school children and educational activities for teachers involved in map education were given. Designating a part of the country as the model, JICA is creating a digital map with local staff and transferring the technology. The map for the remaining regions will be created by the local staff for their own nation-building.

(JICA Austria Office)



Promotion of measurement and observation using GPS (Macedonia)

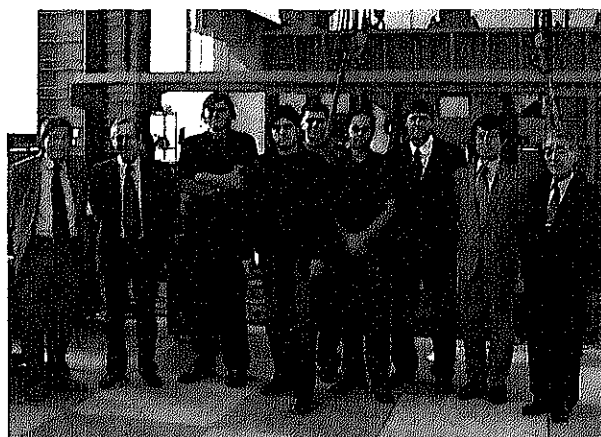


with histories of conflicts. Therefore, when tension increases among ethnic groups due to political or economical reasons, a conflict may be triggered by an incident. In order to maintain and consolidate peace in the unstably structured western Balkans, continuous efforts are necessary to prevent conflict through promoting ethnic reconciliation. JICA will implement cooperation contributing to the stability of the multi-ethnic society, while studying effective measures for the promotion of ethnic reconciliation.

The Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans was held in Tokyo in April 2004. At this conference it was affirmed that peace consolidation and economic development are considered two sides of the same coin, meaning that both must be achieved in concert and that the international community needs to continue its support. Based on this policy, JICA assists countries in the western Balkans with development of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises and tourism for employment expansion in addition to cooperation for consolidation of peace.

### Ukraine and Moldova—Democratization and Transition to the Market Economy

Ukraine and Moldova, located between Europe and Russia, are less developed countries in Europe as a result of



Experimental facility built by a technical cooperation project, which has been implemented since 2002 to reduce earthquake damage in earthquake-ridden Rumania

the strong influence of the Soviet Union on its economy and society, which delayed democratization and transition to a market economy. Though democratization proceeds politically in both countries, many issues including the economy persist. Confronted with limitations on Japan's aid resources and other difficulties, JICA's assistance will fully consider how to achieve results with limited cooperation, the ideal state of cooperation, and the selection of appropriate cooperation areas.

## Front Line Bosnia and Herzegovina • Aid Coordination Project

### Building a Support System with the Cooperation of Every Ethnic Group

#### Improve administrative capacity for economic development

In 2005, 10 years had passed since the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter "BH") concluded, and the goal of development is shifting from post-conflict reconstruction to economic development with the aim of joining the EU. In 2004 the government of BH formulated the Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) as the guideline for future development, specifying the goals of a more effective administrative system and infrastructure development. These are also important groundwork for conditions to promote investment in the private sector. In line with the current situation, JICA also provides support to promote investment and improve the administrative capacity (including coordination capacity improvement for the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations to implement the plan for public investment).

#### Maintaining dialogue with each ethnic group is important

The most important challenge for BH is to make a system as one nation to link

the complicated administrative offices and establish a system to share information within the framework. In BH there are two entities, the Republic of Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided into 10 cantons. Also in 2000, the Brcko District, which does not belong to either of the two entities, was established. Each entity has its own administrative office, and the administrative procedures are extremely complicated. Though this system was created to end the ethnic conflict and in respect to each ethnic group, to promote the future development it is necessary to make a cooperative system of these ethnic groups. Under the situation, the aid coordination

unit was started up in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations by the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In BH the process to overcome the past conflict, cooperate with other ethnic groups, and build one nation has started. We feel that JICA's aid for administrative capacity improvement might only be effective when a steady dialogue among all ethnic groups is carried out.

(JICA Austria Office)



Aid coordination expert from Japan and staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and UNDP