



Part III ○ **JICA Programs by
Development Issue**

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Chapter 1 Approach to Development Issues Working to Achieve Millennium Development Goals

Challenges shared by the international community for human development and eradication of poverty



School building in line with a community's needs (School for All in Niger)

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit, the largest-ever gathering of world leaders involving 189 countries took place in New York. The Millennium Declaration was adopted at this meeting. It contains the goals of the international community for the 21st century and reaffirms the commitment of world leaders to sharing the following seven key objectives for actively pursuing a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world: (1) peace, security and disarmament; (2) development and poverty eradication; (3) protecting our common environment; (4) human rights, democracy, and good governance; (5) protecting the vulnerable; (6) meeting the special needs of Africa; and (7) strengthening the UN. The document specifies that international development goals adopted at major international conferences and summits in the 1990s shall be integrated as important goals to be shared by the entire international community in order to address the most important issues involved with promoting human development.

Accordingly, among the objectives agreed upon in the Millennium Declaration, eight MDGs were compiled as concrete goals related to the second objective—development and

poverty eradication. The MDGs cover several areas, including poverty reduction, education, health care, gender, and the environment, and include 18 targets and 48 indicators as shown in Figure 3-1. As such, the international community employs the MDGs as a framework for measuring development programs and achieving the goals by the deadline of 2015.

In the United Nations General Assembly in September 2005—five years after the Millennium Declaration was adopted—a follow-up summit was held for the mid-term review of the overall declaration. Antecedent to that, in March 2005, the United Nations' Secretary General Kofi Annan's report on the Millennium Declaration was announced, and the G8 Summit 2005 in Gleneagles took place in July where African development was discussed as the main agenda in addressing the MDGs. Thus 2005 was an important year for the world to discuss concrete measures and put them into action for achieving the MDGs as a whole. JICA is also actively working to contribute to achieving the MDGs in collaboration with the international community.

JICA's Approach to the Millennium Development Goals

Human Security—Achieving the MDGs by Focusing on People

In order to further support developing countries in achieving the MDGs, JICA emphasizes the core principle of "human security" with a focus on people. Under this concept of human security, JICA expects that developing countries' efforts and the outcomes of their achievements in relation to the MDGs will be sustained by means of their ownership through capacity development (developing countries strengthening their own capacity to solve problems in development). With emphasis on the importance of infrastructure as the base to support achievement of the MDGs, JICA strives to contribute to the MDGs by supporting infrastructure development that leads to poverty reduction.

Human Security and the MDGs

The MDGs address development and poverty reduction in the objectives of the Millennium Declaration. Other objectives, such as "peace, security and, disarmament," "human rights, democracy, and good governance," "pro-

tecting the vulnerable," etc., are closely related to one another, and the outcomes are not sustainable unless they are tackled comprehensively.

JICA understands that human security is vital for realizing the principle of the Millennium Declaration. Human security focuses on people and pays attention to whole threats that people face.

JICA incorporates the perspective of human security into all the programs in order to improve their quality, and at the same time, from the perspective of human security, comprehensively supports peacebuilding processes including reconstruction, along with disaster and conflict prevention for the purpose of supporting developing countries in achieving the MDGs.

Capacity Development and the MDGs

Japan has gained knowledge and systems from developed countries in the process of modernization and has developed its own society and institutions. Based on such experience, JICA supports human development, organizational strength-

Figure 3-1 Eight MDGs and Targets

1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Target 1a Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
		Target 1b Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2	Achieve universal primary education	Target 2a Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling
3	Promote gender equality and empowerment of women	Target 3a Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015
4	Reduce child mortality	Target 4a Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate
5	Improve maternal health	Target 5a Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Target 6a Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
		Target 6b Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
7	Ensure environmental sustainability	Target 7a Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
		Target 7b Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
		Target 7c By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
8	Develop a global partnership for development	Target 8a Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction—both nationally and internationally
		Target 8b Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes: tariff- and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction
		Target 8c Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the 22nd special session of the General Assembly)
		Target 8d Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long-term
		Target 8e In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
		Target 8f In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
		Target 8g In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

ening, and institution-building, by focusing on the process of capacity development, which empowers people in developing countries to solve their own problems.

By the definition of capacity development, capacity is regarded as the problem-solving ability of a developing country. Capacity is not something that is brought in from outside, but rather something a country develops itself. Donors in support of capacity development are required to be a catalyst that indirectly supports endogenous processes so that developing countries can develop their own problem-solving capacities, and not just be providers of technology, equipment, and capital.

JICA supports developing countries in achieving the MDGs and sustaining their achievement by incorporating the perspective of capacity development into its activities for achieving the MDGs.

Infrastructure Supporting the Achievement of the MDGs

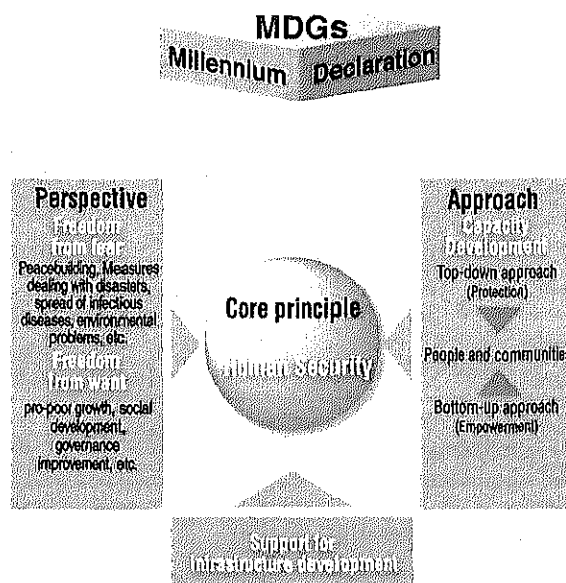
Following World War II, Japan attained economic growth by developing its infrastructure, productive sectors, and industries. Based on this experience, Japan has provided assistance to developing countries, mainly in Asia, with an emphasis on economic and social infrastructure, thereby

greatly contributing to their current development. However, it has been revealed that the benefits of infrastructure development do not always reach the people in need and that infrastructure development has occasionally harmed their living and natural environments. With this in mind, JICA redefined infrastructure as the basis necessary for achieving the development goals—including poverty reduction, the MDGs, and economic growth—and eventually realizing the potential of the people.*

Based on the “human security” concept, JICA is focusing more on people than it has in the past, as well as on infrastructure development that will provide the basis for people’s livelihood, support the economic growth of the nation and regions, and help reduce poverty, thus contributing to achieving the MDGs.

* Study report: A New Dimension of Infrastructure, JICA, 2004

Figure 3-2 JICA's Approach to the MDGs



The MDGs are the specific objectives of the development agenda outlined in the Millennium Declaration. JICA is working toward achieving the MDGs and sustaining the outcomes of this achievement by providing assistance based on the principle of “human security.” This principle has two aspects: (1) Perspective: addressing the need for not only “freedom from want” but also “freedom from fear.” (2) Approach: applying both top-down and bottom-up approaches to help developing countries enhance their capacities for dealing with their own problems (“Capacity Development”). Underpinning these efforts is our cooperation in the area of infrastructure development.

JICA's Contribution to Achieving the MDGs

Most of JICA's programs directly correspond to the fields addressed in the MDGs, or indirectly contribute to achieving the MDGs in different fields.

Direct contributions are represented by cooperation in fields such as poverty reduction, basic education, gender equality, health care, and environmental conservation. The results of JICA's cooperation in the past prove that most of JICA's projects involve cooperation directly related to these MDGs.

JICA indirectly contributes to the MDGs through cooperation in the field of the above-mentioned infrastructure development and in the field of supporting sustainable economic growth. For example, supporting a road construction and improvement project in a rural area is believed to



Rural development with community participation to overcome poverty in Zambia, where 70% of the total population is in the poverty group (Project for Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas in Zambia) Photo by Katsumi Yoshida

Table 3-3 Proportion of MDGs-related Fields in JICA Projects

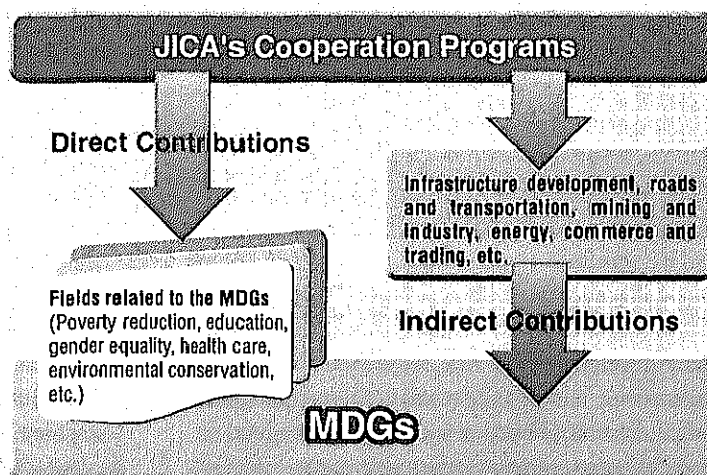
MDGs-related fields	Portion of total operating cost (fiscal 2005)
Poverty reduction (Goal 1)	25%
Basic education (Goal 2)	4%
Gender equality (Goal 3)	11%
Maternal and child health, reproductive health (Goals 4 and 5)	3%
Infectious disease control (Goal 6)	19%
Environment (Goal 7)	18%
Finance, trading, vocational training, information communication (Goal 8)	13%

Note: Some projects are counted more than once in the summation because they encompass several goals.

improve the access to regional medical facilities and primary and secondary schools, thereby indirectly contributing to the reduction of child mortality (Goal 4) and maternal mortality (Goal 5), and achieving universal primary education (Goal 2). Cooperation in mining and industry, energy, commerce and trading fields promotes economic growth in developing countries, leading to the development of a driving force to promote social development related to the MDGs.

Thus JICA's cooperation directly and indirectly contributes to achieving the MDGs in various manners.

Figure 3-4 JICA's Cooperation Programs and MDGs



HIV/AIDS Control Program in Tanzania

CASE STUDY

Since the first AIDS cases were discovered in 1983, the Tanzanian government has made efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, but the number of patients is still increasing. According to UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), the HIV prevalence rate among adults (age 15-49) was reported as being 8.8% at the end of 2003, but some estimated that the actual rate was 20%.

The Tanzanian Ministry of Health has set the targets and will provide high quality care services for STI (sexually transmitted infections) at all the hospitals and health centers and half of the clinics by 2006; establishing six VCT (voluntary counseling and testing) centers in each province. It will also provide adequate training of 1,600 counselors, thus enabling 20% of adults to test for the infection.

In January 2001, Japan and the US conducted a joint project formulation study in the health care field in Tanzania. In consultation with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Commission, the two countries confirmed their joint engagement in HIV/AIDS issues. The government of Japan and JICA, which have been providing HIV testing kits and equipment along with items for STI control since 1997, are being complemented by a medical supplies delivery system developed by an American NGO to solve the problem of lack of supplies in the service centers across the country. Currently, Japan provides about 57% of the necessary equipment and supplies, and at the same time is working with the Tanzanian government to increase its budget for future procurement.

JICA also cooperates with the Ministry of Health to develop and train human resources for counseling at the VCT centers and for advising

and managing the regional facilities. Nearly 300 counselors have already been trained. Furthermore, in partnership with Japanese and local NGOs, JICA responds to local needs for accurate knowledge about AIDS, promotes behavioral changes by raising the level of knowledge and techniques of health agency staff and teachers, and develops systems for community education and care services for the infected.

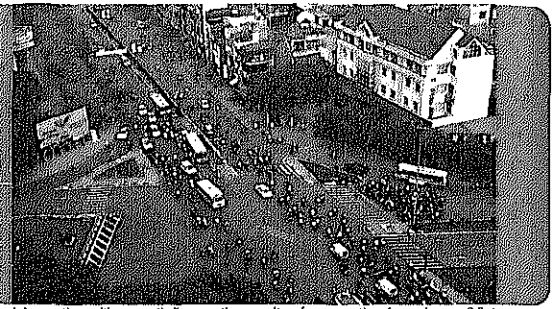
Thus, from the perspective of human security, JICA supports Tanzania in combating HIV/AIDS both in quantity (materials and equipment, counselors) and quality (capacity development of the health agency, its staff and residents) through cooperation at the national level (the Health Ministry)—top-down approach—and direct cooperation at the community level—bottom-up approach.



An NGO staff member giving education on HIV/AIDS to people attending an inter-village soccer tournament
Photo by Katsumi Yoshida

Social Development

Governance/ICT/Transportation/Urban and Regional Development/Japan Center



Intersection with smooth flow as the results of cooperation from Japan (Viet Nam)

Overview of Social Development Field

In many developing countries, basic national systems such as lawmaking, administration and judiciary, and social infrastructure are undeveloped or incomplete. This hinders poverty reduction and economic development in these countries. Regarding these problems as development issues in the social development field, JICA cooperates in development of these countries' basic national systems and basic social

infrastructure. JICA supports the governance field for the former, and the information and communication technology, transportation, and urban and regional development fields for the latter. JICA also supports Japan Center projects. In this section, overview, priority issues, and activities for each social development field are introduced.

Governance

Overview

Since the 1990s governance has been a focus of attention as something that can have an impact on the effectiveness of development assistance. Behind this new emphasis is the understanding that the earlier structural adjustment approach led by the World Bank failed to produce anticipated results in Africa because of a number of political and administrative problems, such as lack of political leadership, an unclear decision-making process, and inefficient administration. In addition, following the end of the Cold War, major donor nations began to regard support for democratization, the protection of human rights, and transition to a market economy as being legitimate forms of assistance.

JICA believes that governance should be pursued so that the entire system for inputting, distributing, and managing resources in a country efficiently in the manner reflecting the opinions of the public can be built and operated for national stability and development. JICA looks at governance as something that relates to three separate areas: building and operation of a democratic political system for the country, the national administrative organs themselves, and the cooperative relationships between the government, civil society and the private sector. Governance in developing countries is an important condition for determining the effectiveness of economic assistance and JICA is thus committed to contributing to economic development by giving good impact on the entire system of developing countries while supporting governance through technical cooperation.

JICA's Efforts

JICA places importance on efforts of the government of the partner country to improve governance and promote the progress and institution of democratization with their ownership and initiative. To that end, JICA takes two approach-

es: one for offering options or one for thinking together, which assists the partner country in selecting, building and operating systems themselves while providing information and having a dialogue in support of an endogenous process of reformation. JICA's specific roles are as follows.

- 1) To provide options for institution-building and evoke a change in awareness of governmental organizations and the people involved
- 2) To support the creation of new systems or institutions
- 3) To support the development of measures and methods to operate the systems and institutions, organizational improvement, and human development

Specifically JICA's assistance in the governance field covers the following three categories: building democratic systems, improving administrative functions, and development of legal systems.

Building Democratic Systems

Support for building democratic systems focuses not on building systems and institutions closely related to political values, but on nurturing awareness of issues among the people involved and promoting changes in their awareness by introducing systems and institutions of various countries, including Japan, and showing options. Examples are Support for Election and National Police Reform in Indonesia, and Regional Cooperation Project on Capacity Building of Drug Analysis for Improvement of Drug Law Enforcement in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao P.D.R, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

Improving Administrative Functions

Support for improving administrative functions focuses on contributing to improved administrative functions, the promotion of balanced decentralization of power, and promoting participation and improving transparency. In support of

contributing to improving administrative systems and institutions and capacity development of organization and human resources of administrative bodies, Support for Public Administrative Reform in Cambodia, Economic Policy Support in Indonesia, Laos, Viet Nam, and the Japan-Myanmar Cooperation Programme for Structural Adjustment of the Myanmar Economy, have been implemented. In support of contributing to promoting balanced decentralization, Capacity Building for Planning Management of Local Authorities in Thailand, Project on Local Management Cooperation in Thailand, Regional Development Policies for Local Government in Indonesia, Human Resources Development for Local Government in Indonesia, Capacity Building for Local Government in Pakistan have been implemented. In support of contributing to promotion of participation and improvement of transparency, the Cebu Socio-economic Empowerment and Development Project is being

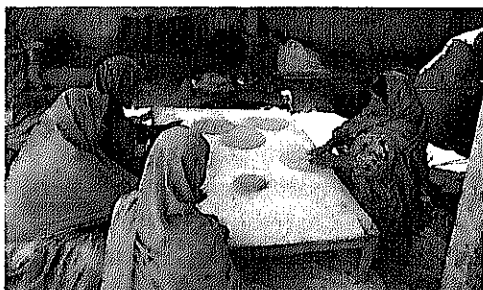
implemented.

Development of Legal Systems

Support for legal systems focuses on developing basic laws, including civil law and commercial law to promote the transition to a market economy and establish the rule of law. For example, support for drafting and enactment of legislation is provided in Viet Nam and Cambodia, support for development of various systems for executing and applying the law in Viet Nam and Laos, and nurturing the legal profession (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) in Viet Nam and Cambodia.

Gender support

From the viewpoint of reviewing social and economic structures, systems, and policies as the source of gender disparity, JICA provides gender support. In Afghanistan where many years of conflict have ended, JICA implements support for the economic empowerment of women through community development with the counterpart, the Ministry of Women's Affairs. This project aims to enhance women's empowerment and improve the livelihood of women whose education and job opportunities had been limited under the Taliban regime. In Cambodia, JICA is assisting staff members of the Ministry of Women



Women working at a bread factory in Kandahar, Afghanistan where there are few opportunities for women to earn cash



Minister of Women's Affairs in Afghanistan (right) and an NGO representative participating in cooperation

Front Line Tanzania

Management Skills Training for Ward and Village Executive Officers

Strengthening the Role and Capacity of Local Governments

Human resources development takes on decentralization

Since the decentralization policy was adopted in Tanzania, the organizational structure is being changed so that the function of the central government has been basically limited to formulation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and standards, and the local government can take the initiative in implementing administrative services. Under such circumstances, the budget that local governments can spend at their own discretion is increasing and capacity strengthening of local governments has become the urgent issue.

JICA is giving training especially for executive officers of wards and villages who play the role to bridge between the community and the prefecture. In this training, executive officers learn the methodology of passing down the policy of a local government to the community and tapping the needs of the

community up to the local government, for the purpose of reflecting the voices of the community in the administrative service of the local government and delivering various resources (funds and human resources) of the local government in line with the needs of the community.

Training all executive officers

Executive officers gain knowledge and various methodologies necessary for supporting the lives of their people in wards and villages, including the roles and responsibilities of executive officers, legal systems related to local administration, good governance, democracy, the operating methods of a village assembly, participatory planning and fund management, environmental conservation, gender, and land utilization. After completing the training course, they return to their villages and wards, where they will participate in regional

development with the same line of sight as the people in the area, acting as a bridge with the community.

Owing to the cost sharing of JICA and the Local Administration Agency, training for all the ward executive officers (450 people) all over the country completed in three years, and in the fourth year, training for village executive officers began. The current issue is to strengthen the system to train new executive officers continuously.

(JICA Tanzania Office)



Executive officers expressing the outcome of the training course by singing

with various skills from data collection and analysis in gender statistics to policy making, implementation, and evaluation. The purpose of the project is to strengthen policy proposals and adjusting functions of the Ministry of Women to

other ministries, agencies, and organizations so that the government will incorporate gender perspectives into the policies, development plans, and projects, and pay considerable attention to gender.

ICT (Information and Communication Technology)

Overview

ICT and Socioeconomic Development

Information and communication technology (ICT) is a driving force for economic growth and contributes to the improvement of socioeconomic development in a wide range of social, economic, and administrative fields; for example, e-government leading to improved services to residents in the administrative field, e-learning in the education field, and e-commerce in the commercial field and map-making through geographic information system (GIS) and weather observation. However these benefits are not available to people who have no access to or chance to learn ICT, especially in developing countries, and this digital divide generates economic disparities. To bridge this digital divide with developed countries and aggressively utilize ICT to improve economic growth and social services in developing countries have become development issues.

At the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit held in July 2000, a working group called Dot Force was formed to utilize the opportunities provided by ICT and eliminate the digital divide and subsequently the World Summit on the Information Society was held in 2003.

Prior to the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, the Japanese government announced a comprehensive cooperation package to address the international digital divide. IT Strategy Headquarters was installed in the Cabinet Office and e-Japan strategy was formulated in 2001. The strategy specifies promotion of cooperation in the ICT fields for foreign countries mainly in Asia and cooperation to bridge digital divide for developing countries as the international policy.

Notes for cooperation

Though needs for ICT-related cooperation exist more or less in every country, there are some points to keep in mind in the implementation of JICA's cooperation. First, since the major players in the ICT field are in the private sector and some parts are assisted with public funding or covered by financial assistance in ODA, what technical cooperation in ODA can do is limited. Second, it is the speed of progress of ICT. Cooperation must be implemented quickly and intensively so that the initial expected outcomes are not obsolete at the end of cooperation. Third, as most of the experts dispatched from Japan are human resources in the private sector and there are not many excellent engineers even in Japan, most cooperation take the form of a corporate contract that dispatches engineers with the skills necessary to achieve a goal only for a required period in consideration of payment. Fourth, computer equipment and software need to be updated every few years, so the necessary fiscal measures for main-

tenance and operation in the partner country must be checked before making equipment and material plans.

JICA's Efforts

JICA identified five development strategy goals in cooperation for the ICT field according to the comprehensive cooperation package on digital divide announced by Japan in 2000.

JICA's Development Strategies

The first goal is capacity building in the area of ICT policy formulation. By dispatching advisors JICA provides assistance for policy making including telecommunication policy, ICT industry development policy, policies to alleviate domestic disparities, and user protection policy, which will help improve quality and quantity of ICT services and pay social consideration to users, based on the formulation of national ICT strategies.

The second is human resources development in the ICT field. To develop human resources as leaders who will promote ICT and transfer it to all the citizens, JICA cooperates in training engineers, policymakers, teachers, etc. Cooperation is provided in different modalities; a technical cooperation project is implemented for the purpose of improving capacity of training centers and universities; buildings are constructed and equipment is provided through financial assistance; and study at Japanese schools may be combined in the case of higher education. JICA volunteers such as JOCVs work as teachers at local polytechnic and vocational training schools, and human resources are invited to Japan for development through technical training. Human resource development is provided to a wide range of people in various modalities and has gained importance in technical cooperation in the ICT field.

The third is development of a communications infrastructure. JICA assists in development of the backbone communication network run by the country and the rural communication infrastructure, which is especially difficult for the private sector to build and profit from. JICA assists in the development of a master plan of the communication network through development studies, and after installing the infrastructure by the developing country alone or with financial assistance, support is given for developing the maintenance and operation system of the installed infrastructure by a technical cooperation project, etc.

The above-mentioned three goals form the bases for social and economic development with ICT at its core.

The fourth is improvement of efficiency and benefits through ICT use in various sectors. Introduction of ICT leads

to improvement of efficiency, effectiveness, and service in various fields such as e-government in administration, e-learning in education, medical care, statistics, map-making, and weather observation. JICA supports ICT use promotion in these fields.

Distance Technical Cooperation and JICA-Net

The fifth* is the use of ICT to improve aid efficiency and effectiveness. The JICA-Net (distance technical cooperation) program corresponds to this. The program consists of (1) remote lectures and seminars, (2) TV conferences, (3) development of multimedia teaching materials, (4) web-based training (WBT), all of which are utilized to alleviate the digital divide and further assist in (1) improvement of efficiency, (2) improvement of quality, (3) expansion of project opportunities in technical cooperation projects.

Since the JICA-Net program was started in 2002, in combination with the expansion of satellite centers, performance of remote lectures and seminars, and accumulation of the developed contents, effectiveness of distance technical cooperation has been increasingly recognized and utilization has increased. The important task for the future is to develop contents that will complement JICA's technical cooperation and improve quality and efficiency strategically and systematically in line with the needs of each development issue of JICA. The contents that have been developed so far include "Japan's experience in education," which raises the efficiency of technical cooperation by presenting Japan's experiences in an easy-to-understand manner, and "remote sensing,"

which can replace the conventional type of training when it is employed for distance technical cooperation.

In order to promote utilization of distance technical cooperation, distance technical cooperation will be actively incorporated into planning of a project such as the Japan Center. Collaboration with outside organizations is also an important issue. So far JICA has mutually used facilities with the World Bank's GDLN (Global Development Learning Network) and jointly hosted remote seminars, and now is pursuing negotiations to share each other's distance educational programs and jointly develop contents. This is also utilized for international education such as interaction between children from two countries by linking a primary school in Japan and the JICA-Net satellite center. It is also an important issue to promote distance technical cooperation jointly with other organizations in Japan.

JICA continues to implement various cooperation to connect ICT to effective social and economic development by selecting appropriate ICT in line with the actual situation of a country and region while considering the initiative of the partner country.

In December 2003 the thematic guidelines on the ICT field were formulated. In fiscal 2005, these thematic guidelines are being utilized for project formulation, etc., and the regional cooperation policies need to be formulated in the future.

* The comprehensive cooperation package of the Japanese government consists of four goals. The fourth goal, the promotion of ICT use in assistance, is divided into the fourth goal, improvement of efficiency and benefits through the utilization of ICT in various fields, and the fifth goal, use of ICT to improve aid efficiency and effectiveness, in the development strategy goals of JICA's cooperation.

Front Line Bhutan

Project for Expanding Subscribers' Line Network and Human Development

Self-sustaining Development of Communications Infrastructure

Expand local telephone network with grant aid

The telecommunications network in Bhutan greatly enriched its local telephone networks with grant aid from Japan: Project for Development of the Domestic Telecommunication Network (1991-1997). However local telephone networks in some areas were still undeveloped and the service did not reach the citizens' level.

Though Bhutan Telecom (BT) planned an installation of subscriber's telephone network, due to limited financial resources, insufficient construction equipment and materials, and lack of technology, BT requested JICA for dispatch of experts in telecommunications. In 2001 JICA began dispatching experts and providing related equipment and materials, and since then has promoted cooperation to improve local telephone networks with a focus on line designing

skills.

The experts proposed ingenious activities for improvement on the site. In this project from the viewpoint that self-sustainable development in Bhutan is limited if they depend on equipment and materials provided from Japan.

Dramatic spread of telephone lines

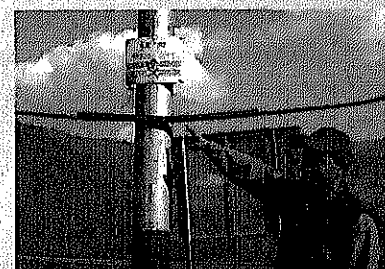
As a result, the engineers in Bhutan have come to create tools using the materials available locally after trial-and-error, and the environment nurturing their ownership is also growing.

In fiscal 2004, BT proposed seven ideas for ingenuity and improvement, and became interested in maintenance and control of the facilities, lowering the failure rate for telephones. BT has decided to take up these measures company-wide starting in fiscal 2005.

Through such technical cooperation, as of the end of 2004, the number of

telephone subscribers rapidly increased to 30,000 lines, that is 1.7 times what it was in 2001, and the number of public telephone locations rapidly increased to 69 by a factor of 2.2. The Internet spread rapidly as well, and in February 2005, a Bhutan administrative information network system was established, enabling smooth information exchange between the central government and local administrative governments.

(JICA/JOCV Bhutan Office)



Reuse of used cable jackets as protective wire cover at the proposal of BT staff

Transportation, Urban and Regional Development

Overview

To support sustainable development and growth in developing countries, it is essential to develop economic and social infrastructure in urban and rural areas where people gather and live as well as transportation infrastructure that serves to transport goods and people who live there.

However, in some developing countries, the effectiveness of infrastructure has not been sufficiently demonstrated due to disorderly urban and regional development, undeveloped infrastructure, and inadequate operation and management of infrastructure. In addition, development of infrastructure such as roads, airports and ports has had a socially negative impact represented by resettlement of residents, and environmental destruction in some cases. As a result, improvement in the living standard of people, economic growth, and poverty reduction and achieving the MDGs have become difficult.

Under such circumstances, JICA actively promotes residents' participation in and collaboration with NGOs, etc., to develop infrastructure that takes into consideration "for what" and "for whom," focusing on the users and peripheral residents and not just targeting infrastructure development alone.

Transportation

The purpose of transportation is to contribute to income generation and better living conditions, as well as to promote economic stimulation through the efficient transportation of people and goods. The demand for improved transportation infrastructure, such as roads, railways, ports, and airports, remains vital throughout developing countries and the rest of the world. The need for maintenance, management, repair and modernization of aging facilities is expected to increase rapidly.

However, it is also necessary to consider the negative effects of infrastructure development and countermeasures to deal with problems. Potential problems related to environmental impact, including pressure to resettle nearby residents and transportation-related noise and vibration, are afflicting a number of people.

Though transportation infrastructure development requires a vast amount of funds as well as substantial additional costs to alleviate the negative effects of development, available financial resources are limited in most cases. It is impossible to develop all the necessary infrastructure with limited funds. It is becoming increasingly important, therefore, to ensure that the purpose of development projects is not just the construction of infrastructure but rather the sustainable and efficient provision of transportation services as expected by users.

Urban and Regional Development

In urban areas of developing countries, urbanization is progressing due to population growth and influx from rural areas. While the progress of urbanization has had positive

impacts in terms of economic development and efficient urban management, it leads to various problems such as deterioration of the urban living environment, heavy traffic, deterioration of public security, emergence of squatters, and slums. Furthermore, urban fringe areas and rural areas face problems such as the decline of regional economies, delays in infrastructure development, and lack of public services.

These problems are an inter-affected complex of various phenomena, many of which cannot be addressed by cooperation to solve individual problems due to diversifying and complicated regional needs.

These problems in urban and regional areas need to be comprehensively tackled with a focus on the living environments of people, such as environmental protection, poverty control, maintenance of public safety, development of housing environments, job support, and unemployment policy, in addition to improvements in urban and regional areas aimed at development.

JICA's Efforts

Through development in the transportation sector and urban and regional development in developing countries, JICA increases the reliability and safety of people's living situations and promotes smoother transportation and development of sustainable urban and rural living environments, thus contributing to economic growth and improvements in living standards.

In the transportation sector, in addition to conventional hardware cooperation like facility development plans, JICA is implementing a wide range of technical cooperation such as (1) development of transportation infrastructure required by beneficiaries such as users and nearby residents, (2) development plan for buses and other public transportation considering the poverty group and the vulnerable, and (3) human development and organization- and institution-building for operation, maintenance, and management of facilities for the purpose of sustainable provision of service. In order for facilities such as roads and bridges to perform required functions sufficiently, JICA provides cooperation related to construction and recovery of transportation facilities, introduction of equipment and materials necessary for construction, and development of human resources involved in construction, maintenance and management, and the creation of training centers.

In the urban and regional development, with a focus on the people who are living there, JICA implements formulation studies for comprehensive urban development master plan and regional and rural promotion plan studies in order to proceed with socioeconomic development. In these studies, a comprehensive approach is taken that incorporates poverty issues, natural environmental measures, maintenance of public safety, and job assistance, in addition to urban and regional development. Looking at a wide area including the central city comprehensively with respect to the relationship

between the city and the peripheral area, or the rural area and the urban area, JICA works on formulating urban develop-

ment and rural development plans based on the prospect of which direction the city or the region should take.

Front Line Viet Nam Traffic Safety Promotion Program

Promoting Traffic Safety with Intersection Control and Change in Awareness

Outcome of change in awareness and model project

In Viet Nam, the people's awareness of traffic safety is low, and actions such as speeding, not wearing helmets, sudden lane changes without signaling, driving the wrong way, and ignoring traffic lights are common. Annual traffic fatalities exceed 12,000.

The Vietnamese government has strengthened control as a traffic safety measure, and in fiscal 2002 JICA started the Traffic Safety Promotion Program in cooperation with Hanoi City. Based on the recognition that a change in people's awareness is necessary to improve traffic safety, JICA adopted the left-turn signal (in Viet Nam cars drive on the right side) and separated traffic lanes for cars, motorbikes, and bicycles on one trunk road selected as a model road for the

first time in Viet Nam. At the same time JICA conducted various educational activities such as public relations using TV, newspapers, pamphlets, traffic instruction by local retired people and volunteers, and 1,000 model bikers campaign, for road users to keep using signals and traffic lanes.

Changing the consciousness of the traffic administration

The biggest task was to gain agreement from personnel responsible for related organizations in Viet Nam. Though they were initially very negative and concerned about traffic accidents and jams that might be caused by these experiments, the JICA office and experts involved continued their patient persuasion.

This method is not really a precedent

in Viet Nam. However, it was successfully recognized by the city and the citizens in Hanoi. JICA believes that it could provide a good model for the people in Viet Nam, not to mention the people in Hanoi, as the first step in measures to solve traffic problems. JICA is planning to continue cooperation for greater improvements in the future.

(JICA Viet Nam Office)



Chaotic intersection before the implementation of the program (see p. 74 for the intersection after implementation)

Japan Center

Japan Center was envisaged as the base to support human development responding to the market economy, by utilizing the experiences of Japan in countries moving to market economies in East and Central Asia and the Indochina area. It is also expected to serve as a place for exchange and mutual understanding between people of the partner country and Japan. The Japan Center not only cooperates in the economic field but also aims to be a "wide open center" to the general public by introducing each country's society and culture, as well as providing Japanese language courses.

JICA launched Japan Center projects in September 2000. At the moment nine centers in eight countries are in place and operating (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh in Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan). Though activities differ depending on the situation and the needs of each country, business courses for human development involved in practical business, mutual understanding promotion programs, and Japanese language courses are the core of the basic activities at all centers.

In countries under transition to a market economy, it is an urgent matter to foster human resources in the private sector to support the actual economy and the administrative officers in charge of institutional reforms. The business course is expected to support human development in these fields. Lectures and case studies with subjects using actual examples of the Japanese style of management, and practical con-

tents including the actual diagnosis of factories, have been praised greatly and as a result, there has been a case where former students formed "Kaizen Association" to spread the Japanese style of management by themselves to a wide area.

In the mutual understanding promotion program, provision of information on current situations and education for international students in Japan, etc., exchange of opinions from students of both countries are conducted through various events and the Internet services. The Japanese language course, which offers up to an advanced class, aims not only to deepen their understanding of Japan but also to broaden opportunities for jobs and studying in Japan.

The Japan Center is working to enhance the linkage among these activities in order to raise the synergy effect, and furthermore, for the association developed on the basis of Japan Center to cultivate a network that is meaningful for the future of each country and Japan.



Origami Class held in a town in north Mongolia by the Mongol-Japan Human-Resource Development Center shows Japan's popularity in a rural area.

Human Development

Basic Education/Higher Education, Technical Education and Training/Health/Social Security



Non-formal elementary school held at a teacher's residence (Pakistan)

Overview of the Human Development Field

In the human development field JICA provides technical cooperation in four areas: (1) basic education, (2) higher education, technical education and training, (3) health (infectious disease control, maternal and child health care, reproductive health, human resource development for health care, and health system development and reconstruction), and (4) social security (social insurance and welfare, support for persons with disabilities, labor and employment). These are all fundamental and important issues in human life closely related to the concept of human security. They are also related to five* of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were adopted by the UN as being important for the prosperity of humankind.

In the basic education area, JICA is working to increase the enrollment rate of students by encouraging residents' participation, and also to improve quality by educating teachers, upgrading textbooks, etc. In the educational administration area, JICA cooperates in the formulation of education development plans. In the non-formal education area, literacy education, which is also important from the perspective of human security, is also conducted.

Higher education and technical education and training are

essential for economic development, and JICA supports human development at universities and research centers to respond to the needs of the industrial world. From the perspective of peacebuilding, programs related to social reintegration of ex-combatants are implemented as well.

In the health area, JICA implements projects related to infectious disease control such as SARS, HIV/AIDS, malaria and maternal and child health to protect the health of women and children. In addition, JICA provides cooperation for improving health care administration systems that tend to be vulnerable in developing countries.

In the social security area, JICA provides cooperation for occupational safety, medical and vocational rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, and welfare enhancement to protect the socially vulnerable.

Through these activities, JICA aims to secure the existence, livelihood, and dignity of humankind within the meaning of human security in developing countries in the human development field.

* The five MDGs related to human development are (1) achieve universal primary education, (2) promote gender equality and empowerment of women (elimination of gender disparity in education), (3) reduce child mortality, (4) improve maternal health, and (5) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. See p. 70 for the MDGs.

Basic Education

Overview

Even in the 21st century there are about 800 million illiterate adults worldwide and the number of children who do not attend school exceeds 103 million (57% of them are girls). Under such circumstances, the World Education Forum was held in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, in 2000, and delegates from 181 countries, international organizations, and NGOs took part. This forum reconfirmed the importance of basic education* and adopted the Dakar Framework for Action as a pledge to reach goals such as ensuring access to primary education of all children by 2015 and eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005. Two of the eight MDGs announced in the UN General Assembly in 2000 are related to basic education, and various activities are implemented in respective countries to achieve these global common goals.

In line with such international trends, Japan's ODA pol-

icy supports basic education. In the Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN) announced by Prime Minister Koizumi at the G8 Kananaskis Summit in 2002, the Japanese government clarified its emphasis on support for basic education based on the recognition that investment in education is an effective measure for poverty reduction and economic growth.

JICA has been consistently expanding cooperation for basic education as well. The actual amount and share of JICA's cooperation for basic education at the beginning of the 1990s was about 15 billion yen annually, which accounts for about 12% of JICA's operation; however, it has now increased to about 30 billion yen annually, which accounts for about 20% (Figure 3-5).

* Basic education is defined as education enabling individuals to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to live in society. Specifically, pre-primary, primary, first-half secondary education and non-formal education are collectively called basic education.

JICA's Efforts

Under the basic policy of providing cooperation in line with the needs of partner countries, JICA has identified the following five points as priority areas for cooperation in basic education.

- 1) Quantitatively expanding primary and secondary education
- 2) Improving the quality of primary and secondary education
- 3) Reducing gender disparities
- 4) Promoting non-formal education
- 5) Improving education management

Quantitatively expanding primary and secondary education

Specifically, activities for quantitatively expanding primary and secondary education include building schools and facilities, and improving the educational environment surrounding children. Though there are various reasons why children are not enrolled, in most cases they cannot or do not go to school because parents lack understanding or they have to work even if they have access to school. To raise the enrollment rate, it is necessary to not only construct schools but also to develop an environment under which children can go to school. For such reasons, JICA has been implementing educational activities to promote the understanding of parents and local residents by promoting community participation, organization of groups, participating in school construction projects, etc.

Improving the quality of primary and secondary education

To improve the quality of primary and secondary education, it is necessary to work on the improvement of various components in education such as teachers, textbooks, educational facilities, etc. To be more concrete, it is important to enhance teachers' quality by improving of both in- and pre-service teacher training as well as teaching methods, developing and disseminating textbooks and teaching materials, and modernizing facilities. Since the middle of the 1990s, JICA has implemented projects related to teacher training, especially in science and mathematics, in a combination of activities, such as development of teaching methods, textbooks and teachers' manuals, and a review of teacher training curriculum. Recently, cooperation in areas other than science and mathematics education has started in countries such as Myanmar. In addition, in Africa and Central America, a plan for regionwide cooperation in which the outcomes of teacher training projects in Kenya and Honduras are spread to other countries has been examined and started.

Promoting non-formal education

Cooperation for non-formal education that is defined as organized educational activities outside the

school education system is very important. Non-formal education has meaning for not only satisfying basic learning needs that cannot be accommodated by school education alone, but also for the realization of human security that ensures the existence, livelihood, and dignity of humankind and assures the freedom to act for oneself. Non-formal education is widely intended for people from adults to children and specific activities include promotion of literacy programs and life skills* acquisition programs.

Non-formal education excels in diversity, flexibility, and readiness, and contributes to various fields such as health care, natural environment conservation, peacebuilding, and livelihood generation, in addition to education. JICA has been strengthening activities in this field recently, and projects have been implemented in countries such as Afghanistan, Nepal and Ethiopia.

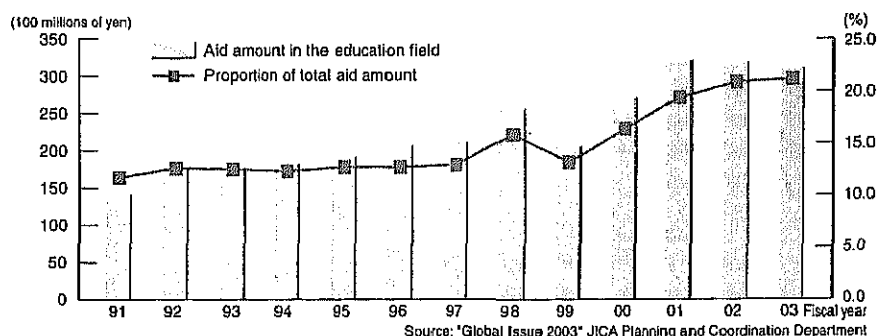
Improving education management

Education management is an issue related to all the education sub-sectors in a cross-sectional manner, and has to be improved for self-sustaining development of education. One example of such activities is the improvement of education administrators' capacity in planning, project implementation, monitoring, etc., through the formulation of education development plans and the promotion of decentralization, etc. For instance, in Indonesia JICA provides cooperation to bring about school-based education with community participation under the national decentralization policy of education.

Education is made up of many factors including teachers, textbooks and other learning materials, classroom facilities, policy and administration, and the social environment, all of which are closely interrelated. As such, complex issues in education require a comprehensive approach and flexible measures optimal to the needs of beneficiaries. Accordingly, JICA will endeavor to expand and diversify its cooperation by understanding the needs of local people more accurately while collaborating and coordinating with other donors and NGOs.

* Life skills is a collective term for various types of know-how and skills necessary for life; for example, social life skills such as decision-making, problem-solving, critical thinking and effective communications and simple vocational training, environmental education, health and hygienic education and infectious disease control such as HIV/AIDS, in addition to literacy and numeracy. (Study Report: Approaches for Systematic Planning of Development Projects by JICA 2002).

Figure 3-5 Performance of JICA's Cooperation in the Education Field



Higher Education, Technical Education and Training

Overview

In many developing countries, opportunities to receive quality higher education, technical education, and training tend to be limited. Consequently, opportunities to gain sufficient earnings are limited and human resources are not effectively utilized. The fact that human resources that lead industries are not developed has become a major bottleneck to industrial promotion and development. On the other hand, in response to globalization, which has promoted progress of information communications and transition to knowledge-intensive economies, the role of higher education that cultivates core human resources that can produce and spread knowledge has been growing recently.

Today, as basic education is being expanded worldwide, response to education and training after basic education is becoming increasingly important. By providing more opportunities for basic education graduates to participate in the society, it will lead to further economic development.

JICA's Efforts

Higher Education

In today's global society, which is called the society of knowledge economy, higher education institutions are strongly required to collect, create, diffuse, and use knowledge and information. In developing countries as well, the role that should be played by higher education institutions has become greater in cultivating human resources that will lead nation-building, improve the intellectual level of the entire society, and meet the needs and expectations of society.

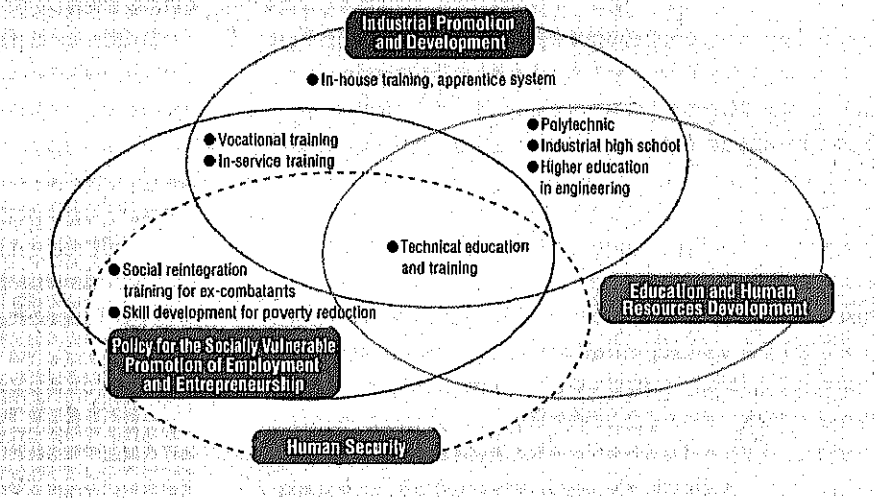
In response to these changes in roles, JICA's policy of supporting higher education is changing. JICA's cooperation has been conventionally focused on installing and expanding faculties and departments in the technical, engineering, and science fields that are consid-

ered directly beneficial to industrial promotion and technical development. However in recent years, JICA's cooperation has been extended to support higher education administration, social science education, and operation and management of universities. JICA is also making efforts to improve the research capabilities of graduate schools and research centers, strengthen collaboration with the industry, promote regional integration by utilizing intra-region network connecting universities, provide distance and regionwide education, and expand support for students coming from surrounding countries. Additionally, from the global and long-term perspective, flexible cooperation activities meeting the needs and the situations of the partner countries are provided.

Technical Education and Training

Human resources demanded by society differ depending on the state of development in each country. In ASEAN and countries in South America, with economic development by investment of foreign capital in the background, cultivating human resources to meet the needs of industry is needed. In contrast, in sub-Saharan Africa, Southwest Asia, and post-conflict countries, industries are undeveloped and employment in large enterprises is not much expected. Therefore,

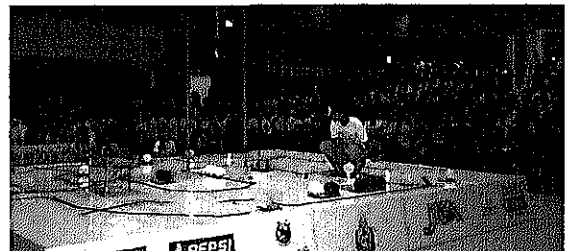
Figure 3-6 Conceptual Diagram of Issues in the Higher Education, Technical Education and Training Fields



The Upgrading IT Education Project (Information Technology Bridging Course) in Laos

CASE STUDY

The Upgrading IT Education Project, which is currently ongoing in the Department of Engineering, National University of Laos, actively employs remote lectures with cooperation from Tokai University. In this project, in addition to an expert dispatched from Japan, Thai experts are dispatched from King Mongkut's University of Technology Ladkrabang for which Japan has provided cooperation for about 40 years. In this way, through collaboration among universities in three countries, JICA aims to contribute to strengthening the human development function of developing countries on a continuing basis.

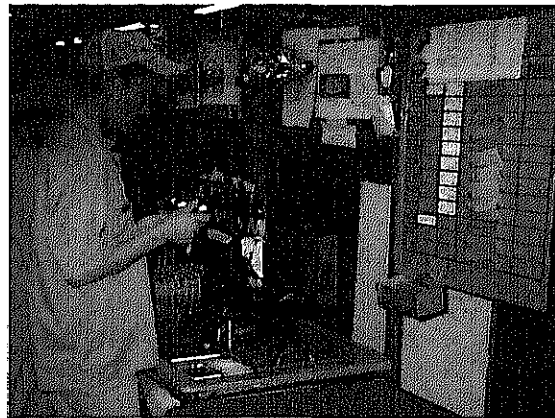


Robot competition held by Department of Engineering, National University of Laos: Student groups from supporting universities in Thailand and Japan also participated and about 600 people came to see the competition.

The Project for Strengthening Training Capacity for Technical Workers in the Hanoi Industrial College in Viet Nam

CASE STUDY

When cultivating industrial human resources, it is necessary to establish a collaborative system with the industrial world as effectively as possible by devising education and training that meets industrial needs. For example, in Viet Nam, where foreign investment has increased, a project has been implemented at the Hanoi Industrial College to cultivate mechanical engineers who can work as foremen. This project has offered short training courses for workers from local factories and received product orders from private companies. While understanding the needs of the industrial world, a good relationship between the project and the industrial world has been established. In particular, the fact that the instructors and the students not only learned techniques but also understood proper working attitude and the importance of manufacturing, etc., was praised by the local industrial world, including Japanese-affiliated companies.



Graduates from the Hanoi Industrial College are appreciated as adaptable potential, and the number of job offers per student is larger than that of other schools.

it is necessary to cultivate human resources that can work in small businesses or start-up businesses by acquiring practical basic skills, thus addressing poverty reduction and

improvement of livelihood. Especially in post-conflict countries, ex-combatants who have just been discharged are given technical training to promote social reintegration.

Health

Overview

In many countries throughout the world the decrease in death and birth rates has progressed and population transitions have shifted from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates. Improved standards in people's health has resulted from development in the health field, meaning that health services to prevent or cure diseases now reach more people, in addition to indirect factors such as the fact that living environments and nutrition have improved and education has spread owing to the social and economic development of each country.

However, even today, in the 21st century, the health indicators have not improved or deteriorated in some developing countries and areas, and there are still great disparities in the health indicators between industrialized countries and developing countries, the rich and the poor, and residents in urban areas and residents in rural areas. For example, in Afghanistan and some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the risk of death of women during pregnancy and delivery (the maternal death rate) is 100 times or more for that of women in Japan. The chances of a newborn baby living until its fifth birthday is 99% or more in high-income countries, including Japan, whereas nearly 20% of children die before the age of five in the impoverished countries. It is notable that 70% of them die of diseases that can be prevented or cured with immunizations or basic medicine. In the countries where health and medical care facilities have been destroyed by civil war or conflicts and doctors and nurses have fled, public health services are not available and the deterioration of health standards becomes serious.

JICA's Efforts

In order to alleviate such disparities and improve the health of all people, it is necessary to establish and maintain health systems that can provide good quality health services at low cost. Effective health care systems involve many factors, including appropriate government decision making on policies, enhancement of facilities and personnel for provision of services, securing effective operation of financial resources, and community participation in health activities. JICA is implementing various technical cooperation in order to help developing countries establish such health care systems and provide effective health services.

Infectious Disease Control

Due to the spread of infections such as SARS and avian influenza, concerns for infectious diseases have been increasing in Japan. However on a global scale, infectious diseases tend to expand despite efforts made, especially in developing countries. For example, the spread of HIV/AIDS infection is outstanding in sub-Saharan Africa, where 65% (about 25 million people) of the world's PLA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) (about 39 million people) and 74% (about 2.3 million people) of the world's AIDS fatalities (3.1 million people) are concentrated. The WHO estimates seven to eight million people die annually of the three major infectious diseases—AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria—in developing countries. To address the spread of infectious diseases, the Japanese government advocated the Global Parasitic Control Initiative (Hashimoto Initiative) in 1998, and announced the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative in 2000.

Based on these initiatives JICA provides assistance in harmony with international aid trends against infectious dis-

Feature

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Reference
Section

Chapter 1 Approach to Development Issues
3 Human Development

eases so that developing countries can proactively decrease threats of infection. Specifically, JICA provides cooperation for HIV/AIDS control, tuberculosis control, malaria control, parasite control, expanded program on immunization (EPI), etc., to disseminate infection control measures, testing methods and cures, and develop human resources involved in these medical activities.

Maternal and Child Health, Reproductive Health

In developing countries, the health problems of women and children are still serious. In the world, more than 500,000 women die during pregnancy or childbirth every year. It is the most prevalent cause of death among women. As mentioned before, more than 10 million children die of preventable diseases before their fifth birthdays.

Under such circumstances, the MDGs specify goals for reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. Based on such international goals, JICA is proactively committed to providing cooperation to improve the health of women and children.

In particular, comprehensive cooperation incorporating a gender perspective is being promoted from the viewpoint that improving life-long health related to sex and reproduction (reproductive health) is important for improving the health of women. Among them is a project for promoting safe delivery and family planning in collaboration with NGOs in Viet Nam and Myanmar. Also, in countries such as Cambodia, cooperation to improve the health of mothers and children together has been implemented for many years, resulting in many achievements.

Health Care System Development and Reconstruction

In order to strengthen maternal and child health and infectious disease control programs in a sustainable manner, it is necessary to improve the entire health system that provides these health services. In recent years, many develop-

ing countries are implementing institutional reforms such as decentralization and expansion of social insurance, which potentially have a large impact on the accessibility and quality of health services. JICA provides assistance to support such efforts.

Examples include technical cooperation projects such as the Development Study on Improvement of Management Information Systems in Health Sector in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which aims to improve the information system in health that provides a foundation for policy-making; Project for Strengthening District Health Services in Morogoro Region in Tanzania, which aims to strengthen the health care administrative capacity at the local government level; and Project for Improvement of Health Service with a Focus on Safe Motherhood in the Kissi and Kericho Districts in Kenya, which aims to strengthen the service provision and the patient referral system suitable for the level of the health and medical care facilities. Support for system development requires medium to long term perspectives. However, there are increasing cases of post-conflict assistance where immediate response is required. An example of such assistance is the case in Afghanistan, where support is provided under four pillars—children's health, women's health, infectious diseases control mainly for tuberculosis, and strengthening health care administrative capacity.

Human Resources Development for Health Care

In many developing countries there are problems with insufficient numbers of health workers and the inadequate quality of services provided. In response, JICA is implementing cooperation to develop skills, knowledge, and competence of health workers in line with the situation of each country.

In fiscal 2004, JICA started a project in Uzbekistan in Central Asia to establish a nursing education model, introducing a concept of client-oriented nursing care which is new

to Uzbekistan. For nurses to provide high quality care, it is vital to develop a system and foundation that can utilize the capacity and skills acquired through education, as well as improve the quality of nursing education at nursing schools. In this regard, JICA planned a project for Laos that pays attention to both sides of education improvements and nursing administration. In addition, in order to change the situation of depending on foreign nurses and instead cultivate domestic nurses in Saudi Arabia, training for Saudi Arabian female nursing leaders is provided in Japan.



A nurse examining health conditions of people on a tour through rural areas (Project for In-service Training of Community Health Nurses in Fiji)

Social Security

Overview and JICA's Efforts

The economic crisis that affected Southeast Asian countries from July 1997 through 1998 had a substantial impact on the living situations of citizens in the region, as well as on the actual economy. As a result, the immaturity of the system to protect the socially vulnerable groups in these countries as well as the immaturity of the social security system as the medium- and long-term foundation to prevent people from dropping into the vulnerable group were exposed, and the necessity for those systems was reconfirmed. JICA provides cooperation in the following sectors based on the experience and knowledge of Japan related to the development of social security and social welfare systems.

Social Insurance and Social Welfare

This sector encompasses, medical security and pension programs, which usually are provided in a form of social insurance, and social welfare measures for elderly persons, children, and mothers. It also includes protection of the social vulnerable, such as drug addicts, ex-combatants, and prisoners. Currently, projects for the development of a medical security information system in Thailand, social rehabilitation support for street children in Mexico City, and strengthening the elderly welfare policy in Chile are being implemented.

Support for Persons with Disabilities

Although welfare for persons with disabilities is usually included in social welfare, JICA does not regard persons with disabilities only as the beneficiaries of welfare services, but rather emphasizes support that assists them in living in local communities with non-disabled persons and proactively taking part in social activities as actors in development. Specifically, this field can be divided into sectors such as medical rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, community-based rehabilitation (CBR), education for disabled persons and children, development of disabled leaders, development and strengthening of disabled persons' organizations, support for independent life, and promotion of barrier-free societies. Cooperation is being implemented in countries such as China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Chile.

Labor and Employment

This field includes labor policy, employment policy, job placement, labor standards, occupational safety and health, labor relations, as well as labor insurance such as unemployment insurance and worker's accident compensation insurance. In relation to occupational safety and health, JICA is implementing projects to support the establishment of a center to develop related human resources in ASEAN countries.

Front Line Malaysia

Transfer of Wheelchair Production Technology and Workshop to Spread Wheelchair Basketball

Aiming for the Independence and Full Participation in Society of Disabled Persons in Wheelchairs

Transferring production technology to wheelchair factories

The Malaysian government supplies wheelchairs to persons with physical disabilities in need of wheelchairs free of charge in response to their request. Most of the wheelchairs are imported and come in a standard single model, as there is no large-scale wheelchair manufacturer in Malaysia. Wheelchairs designed for children and sports are too expensive to be provided. However, persons with disabilities need wheelchairs suitable for their own bodies and specific uses.

In February 2005, in order to improve this situation, JICA established a wheelchair factory inside the Bangi Industrial Training and Rehabilitation Center for the Physically Disabled (BITR-CPD), which is located in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur, jointly with Japan Sun Industries in Beppu, Oita. In this factory, staff members of the center and persons

with disabilities from all over the country are receiving technical training, from designing to manufacturing wheelchairs.

Actively supporting wheelchair sports

With the upcoming FESPIC in 2006, interest in sports for persons with disabilities is increasing in Malaysia. In order to spread wheelchair basketball, this cooperation also provides skills training to coaches and players who belong to the Malaysian Paralympic Council. At a workshop in December 2004, an intramural game was played by Japanese and Malaysian mixed teams. During the game, a player turned over on his side by accident. Nevertheless the game strengthened the ties between players from both countries. This game was a great opportunity for the Malaysian players to reaffirm the joy of

wheelchair sports and realize the high level of play that the Japanese players are capable of.

This cooperation continues until fiscal 2006. In addition to improvements in the abilities of wheelchair basketball players, it is expected that wheelchair basketball will spread more in Malaysia and the social participation of disabled persons in wheelchairs will be promoted.

(JICA Malaysia Office)



Participant in the workshop manufacturing a wheelchair