

Africa



Feature

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

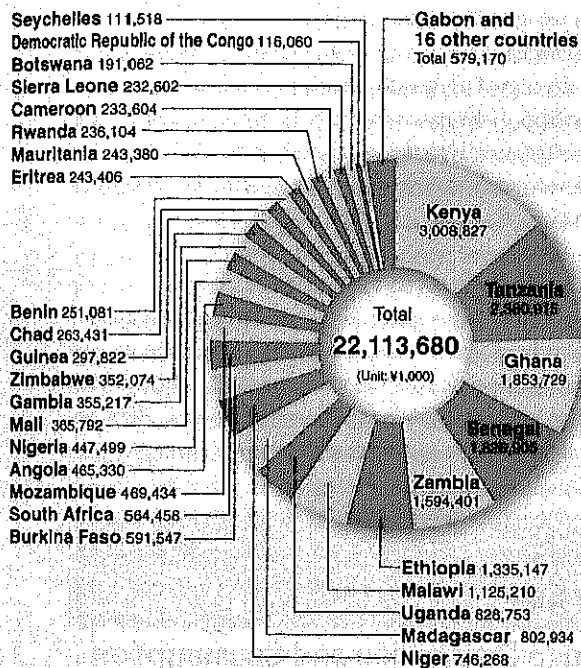
Part 4

Reference Section

Chapter 3 Africa

Pillars of Aid Ultimate Issue of "Poverty Alleviation"

■ Cooperation results by country in Africa (FY2005)



*This is the total amount of bilateral cooperation. The amount of cooperation provided to Africa including cooperation that covers a group of countries is 22,653,203 thousands of yen.

In Africa, which has the highest poverty rate in the world, there are many difficult problems, including conflicts, famine, infectious diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, low school enrollment rates, and accumulated debts. Africa is thus the region with the most serious issues in terms of development. The international community pays attention to development issues in Africa under the recognition that peace and stability in Africa is critical to the sustainable development of the world, and support for Africa is often discussed as an important agenda at international conferences such as G8 Summit.

Japan provides active support for Africa, where various problems as described above persist. In 1993, Japan co-hosted the first Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I) with international organizations such as the UN, and since then it has been stimulating world interest in African development. 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 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.

JICA specifies poverty reduction as the ultimate goal in African development and continues support in line with the following policies.

- 1) Contribution to MDGs (cooperation for poverty alleviation, improvement of the social development indices)
- 2) Deployment of projects incorporating the perspective of human security (enhancement of support for the vulnerable groups and communities)
- 3) Timely reconstruction assistance in post-conflict countries
- 4) Follow up of TICAD III and continued 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

JICA defines Africa as the sub-Saharan region. It is a vast region covering an area of 23.75 million km², and has a truly diverse climate, ranging from desert-like arid areas to hot and humid tropical rain forest areas. More than 850 million people live in 48 countries.

In the 1960s, when most African countries gained their independence, these countries benefited from an international economic environment characterized by stability in the international prices of primary products for export and were able to achieve steady growth. However, they could not move away from monoculture economies that rely on specific primary products, and their economic growths were sluggish in the 1970s owing to a long-term fall in the prices of primary products; unstable political foundations; low productivity caused by drought and flooding. In the 1980s many African countries faced a serious economic crisis

called the Lost Decade and suffered from a constant shortage of funds not only for development but also for recurrent costs to provide basic administrative services.

The major factors of stagnation in Africa are unstable political and social systems including domestic conflicts and vulnerable national functions. In the 1990s, many African countries introduced multiparty systems and election systems in efforts to establish democratic political systems. However, as many as 20 countries have experienced conflicts since the 1990s, generating more than 4.5 million refugees.

Forty of the world's 50 least developed countries defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are in Africa. In these 40 countries, per capita income remains lower than it was in the 1960s and approximately 40% of the total population of Africa live under the poverty line of US\$1 per day.

Although Africa has many problems as stated above, peace

has steadily taken hold. In countries such as Sudan, Sierra Leone and Angola, activities for reconstruction assistance have started with cooperation among various countries including Japan and international organizations to bail them out from post-conflict conditions. Another positive factor in the future African devel-

opment is that sense of self-efforts to achieve their own development is growing among African countries, which is one of the concepts in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Building on the Governmental Policies in Three TICAD

In fiscal 2005, JICA provided technical cooperation to Africa worth ¥22.7 billion 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.

At the Asia-Africa Summit held in April 2005, the Japanese government announced that it would host TICAD IV in 2008,

double its ODA to Africa over the next three years, and strengthen cooperation between Asia and Africa, thus expressing its determination to actively support Africa. In addition, at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in July 2005, it announced a plan to provide assistance worth US\$ 5 billion in the health sector over the next five years (Africa as the primary beneficiary) and expand support for the promotion of trade and investment in Africa.

On the basis of the governmental policies announced at international conferences, with the awareness that the ultimate goal of African development is poverty alleviation, JICA promotes support for Africa.

Strengthening Support for Africa

JICA is promoting support for Africa through quantitative expansion and qualitative improvement. As a result, the volume of technical cooperation for Africa increased to ¥22.7 billion from ¥21.2 billion in fiscal 2004. In implementing projects, JICA has been promoting organic coordination to bring out synergy effects

Front Line Senegal

The Study on the Reorganization of the Production of Rice

Making Functioning Processes from Rice Production to Distribution and Consumption

Stagnant domestic rice production

As in Japan, there are many areas where rice is a staple food in West Africa. In particular, Senegal is one of the countries that consume a great deal of rice per person. Originally there was no custom of eating rice except in the traditional rice-growing areas in the south. However, in the 1950s before gaining independence, the suzerain France imported large amounts of rice from Indochina, which spread rice-eating culture rapidly from the urban areas. Nowadays, lunch, the most important meal of the day, is centered on rice, even in rural areas. The Senegal government developed an irrigation area mainly in the Senegal River basin in the north with support from donors. Currently, this area is a breadbasket, generating 60% of domestic rice production. However, the consumption of domestic rice accounts for only over 10% of national rice consumption, and Senegal has to depend on imported rice from Thailand and Viet Nam.

A new approach to improve the self-sufficient ratio

In order to raise the self-sufficient ratio of rice, it is considered effective to expand the irrigation area and raise productivity by improving the unit yield. However, the issue is not so simple. Instead, various problems such as transition of agricultural policies following independence, a change in the international market conditions, and the preferences of Senegalese people are complexly intertwined. If the series of processes from production to consumption functions properly, the promotion of the rice sector will be possible, leading to food security and improved incomes for farmers. From such a viewpoint, planning for the promotion of the rice sector started in November 2004.

Although Japanese technical cooperation in rice cultivation has traditionally been focused on production, this study adopts a new approach in determining areas of

improvement in a backward flow from the dining table of the Senegalese general public to market and distribution, milling and processing, and the production of unhulled rice. Although it is believed that market and distribution belong to the private sector and there is no space for ODA to be involved, we believe that there are many roles administration can play in terms of systems and institutions.

(JICA Senegal Office)



Promoting high quality domestic rice during a sales campaign

from technical cooperation, grant aid, and yen loans, and improve quality in cooperation. At the same time, JICA has addressed new areas such as speedy response to reconstruction assistance and peacebuilding, and development of cross-boundary infrastructures.

At the same time, JICA continues to reinforce the implementing system of support for Africa: for example, opening new

offices in Cameroon, Namibia, and Rwanda, transferring authority and shifting personnel to overseas offices. Also, regional support offices that are in place in Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa extend technical support to JICA offices in Africa (23 offices as of April 2006). The enforcement of the implementing system has enabled more detailed assistance than ever.

Actions for Priority Issues

Poverty Reduction as the Ultimate Goal

In light of the severe poverty that persists in Africa, it is obvious that the social development sector, such as health, basic education, supply of sanitary water, is important. At the same time, for African countries to continue poverty reduction over the medium- and long-terms, development accompanied by economic growth is required. 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. Also, as the main premise in providing such development assistance, consolidation of peace is indispensable.

Therefore, JICA not only actively provides cooperation for urgent issues such as expansion of primary education for improving of people's lives, HIV/AIDS control, and water supply, but also work on agricultural and rural development in support of economic growth, secondary education, vocational training, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises to develop local industry, and upgrading social infrastructure such as roads and ports. In addition, as a basis of development assistance, consolidation of peace is being focused on. In providing assistance, JICA will emphasize effects and efficiency, collaborate with other donors aggressively, and promote South-South cooperation with the aim of sharing cooperation experience in other regions.

Consolidation of Peace

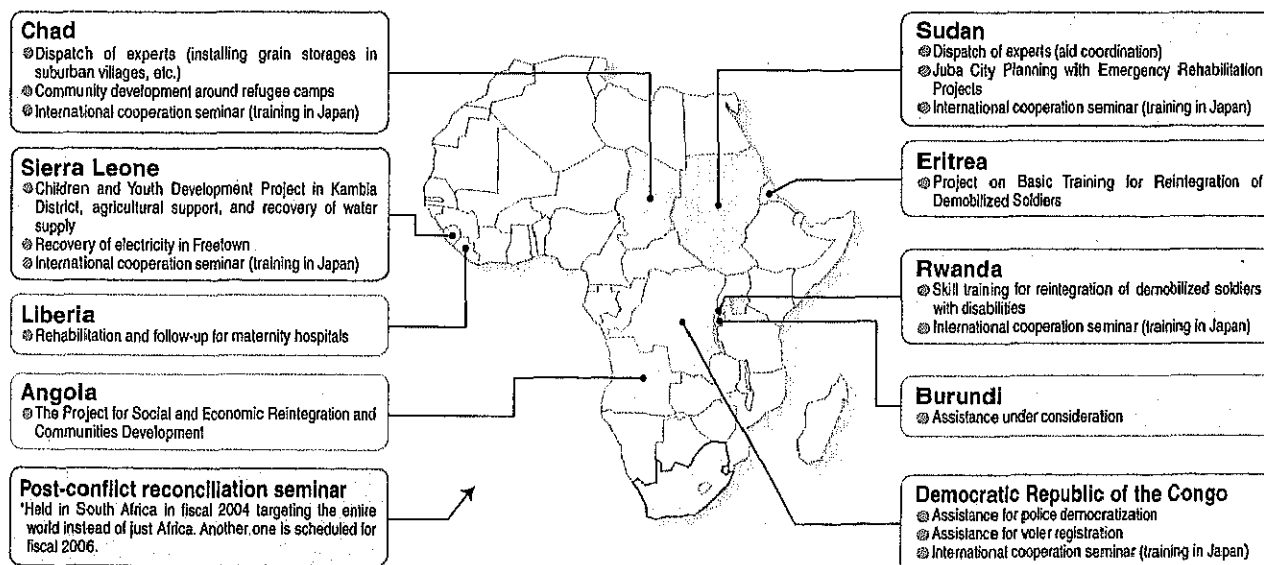
Consolidation of peace is extremely important as a prerequi-

site 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, especially in Africa. 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 aims to implement seamless assistance starting right after conflict and up to the reconstruction development stages. In this regard, based on the concept of human security, JICA prioritizes assistance for building reconstruction basis centered on community reconstruction and implements assistance necessary to promote democratization and consolidate peace (see Figure 2-1 for details of assistance in individual African countries). In fiscal 2005, JICA assisted with rural community development in countries that were at the reconstruction stage (vocational training for demobilized soldiers and support targeting internally displaced persons, refugees and members of communities that accepted refugees) in support of social stability and reconstruction.

In Sudan, in response to urgent issues, JICA provides assistance for reintegration of internally displaced persons and refugees and the establishment of basic infrastructure such as a port facility in Juba City in southern Sudan, which was the major battlefield in the civil war. Also, in order to support the establishment

Figure 2-1 Status of JICA's Peacebuilding Support in Africa



As of June 2006

of the new Sudanese system, human resources development has been promoted (see p.14) through the dispatch of experts to the International Cooperation Department that is the point for receiving aid, training for administrative officers from both the south and the north Sudan, and technical training in third countries like Egypt and Kenya. In Angola, small-scale projects such as repairs of community participatory irrigation facilities and elementary school buildings were implemented with the aim of vitalizing rural areas where demobilized soldiers, internally displaced persons, and refugees are resettled.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the first national election following independence is scheduled in 2006 and it will be the largest-scale election ever held in the world. In cooperation with the Mission of the UN in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) which conducts UN PKO missions and South Africa, JICA provided training for election control officers to enhance the management skills necessary for elections, such as voter registration skills, from May 2005 to March 2006, as well as training to promote democratization of the police force that will play an important role in maintaining security, thus contributing to the enhancement of skills of more than 5,000 people.

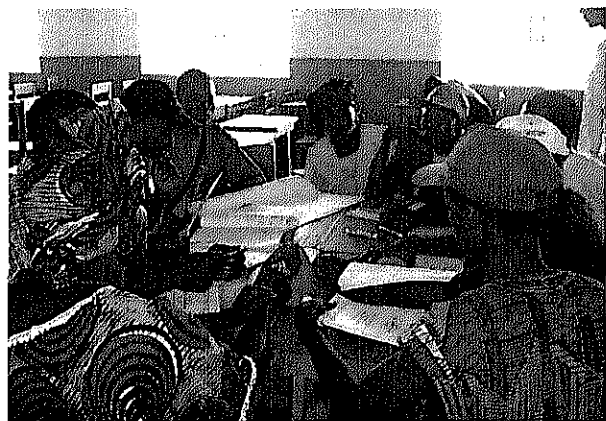
In Sierra Leone, development assistance in education and agriculture with the aim of achieving community self-reliance has been implemented in the Kambia district that produced many refugees in the civil war since the UN and other emergency relief organizations left. Support for recovering the utility infrastructure, such as water supply and electricity, has also begun.

Human-centered Development

The concept of human security is defined as protecting the integral part for human life and realizing every person's freedom and possibilities. In order to secure survival, livelihood, and dignity, a strategy to protect people and enhance capacities is crucial. JICA places importance on the concept of human security in achieving the MDGs, and implements support mainly for self-reliance and development of rural areas for the purpose of improving the basic livelihood that directly affects the poverty group (improvement of education, health and access to safe water).

1. Education

In the field of basic education, with the aim of achieving MDGs 2 and 3 (see p.70), which are to achieve universal primary



Training for residents to develop human resources who can independently improve the deteriorated education environment (Sierra Leone)

ry education and to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, respectively, JICA constructs school buildings with grant aid. JICA supports improvement in the quality of secondary science and mathematics education primarily in Kenya, Ghana, and South Africa with consideration given to balance with supply of primary education. Furthermore, in order to develop human resources who will contribute to sustainable growth and poverty reduction, support for vocational training and education continues mainly in Senegal and Uganda.

JICA's assistance in the education sector is not only limited to provision of study opportunities, but also addresses the areas of (1) study on school conditions, (2) improvement of planning capacity in local education administration, (3) administrative management improvement centered on training for school principals, and (4) the promotion of the participation of parents and the community in school management. 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.

2. Health

Support in the field of health is a primary task in Africa. With the aim of achieving MDGs 4, 5, 6, which are to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, respectively, JICA works on improving capacity and the environment in this field.

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 the spread of 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.

As aforementioned, Prime Minister Koizumi specified Africa as the major beneficiary of Japan's ODA and announced a plan to provide US\$5 billion over the next five years at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in July 2005 and consequently cooperation in the health sector is expected to gain momentum.

3. Water Supply

In the field of water supply, with the aim of achieving MDGs 4, 5, and 7, which are to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and ensure environmental sustainability, JICA works to expand water supply systems that provide access to safe water in more rural areas.

Specifically, JICA will further expand regional water supply projects including deep well construction, which have been provided actively so far, 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 management 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 management unions, in Ethiopia and Senegal.

Poverty Alleviation through Economic Development.....

Achievement of MDGs requires not only temporary poverty reduction but also continuous efforts to reduce poverty. To that end, sustainable economic growth is critical.

In East Asia, economic growth was promoted by gaining investment from the private sector through the establishment of an investment environment, including infrastructure and vitalizing economic activities such as trade. This experience indicates that economic growth supported by the inflow of funds from the private sector in addition to ODA contributes to poverty reduction in the end. However, in order to gain capital from the private sector, development of basic infrastructure, building institutional and policy environments, and capacity building of government, good governance, and healthy macro economy policy management are important. Vitalization of local industry, including identifying products worth of investment and value-added products, is also considered to be an effective means for economic growth. Based on recognition of the importance of these factors, JICA promotes poverty reduction through economic growth.

In Ghana, sheer butter that is produced from local nuts has been successfully exported with Japan's cooperation and sold in Japan as soap and moisture cream. This is an example of grass-roots assistance by JOCVs being successfully connected to JETRO's assistance for fostering local industry. In Malawi, in cooperation with Oita Prefecture, the Campaign of One Village One Product, in which local products have been identified and developed to be competitive in the world market, is being implemented and many production groups work to promote local industries with big expectations for regional self-reliance.

Infrastructure development focusing on roads and ports regionwide is expected to vitalize regional distribution and induce investment from the private sector. Infrastructure development requires effective coordination of yen loans, grant aid and technical cooperation. JICA actively addresses infrastructure development as a member of All Japan and promotes support for infrastructure development while closely exchanging information with other donors including the World Bank.

South-South Cooperation.....

Though Africa is a conglomerate of various countries and communities, there are issues that can be solved by the concerted efforts of several countries in the region and a similar experience in one country can be a good model to solve a problem in another. In this regard, JICA has provided cooperation incorporating South-South cooperation while underlining the policies announced at TICAD.

As for cooperation between Asia and Africa, the Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-creation Program started. This program aims to explore solutions to African development issues while sharing mutual experience and knowledge among working-level officials in both regions. In fiscal 2005, a pilot activity was implemented in the area of rural community development for technical transfer of experiences from Asian officials to African officials.

At the same time, intra-regional cooperation in Africa is ongoing. In order to promote mutual cooperation among African countries, for example, 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.



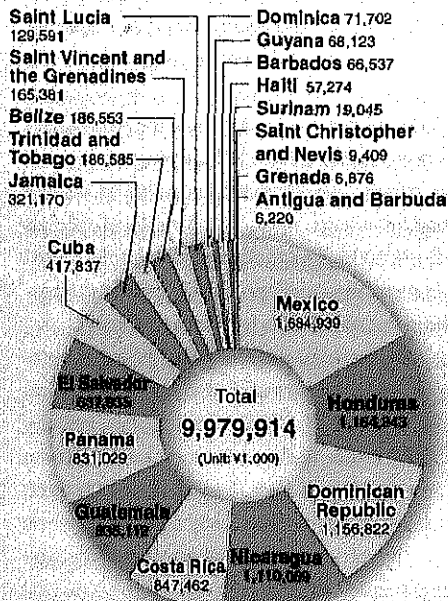
Members of a women's group that produces shea butter (Ghana)

Central America and the Caribbean



Pillars of Aid Sustainable Economic Growth to Reduce Poverty and Address Regional Issues

■ Cooperation results by country in Central America and the Caribbean (FY2005)



This is the total amount of bilateral cooperation. The amount of cooperation provided to North and Latin America including cooperation that covers a group of countries is 21,184,385 thousands of yen.

Poverty reduction is the utmost priority issue common to most countries in Central America and the Caribbean in their development policies. Poverty reduction is vital for promoting peace-building in the region, where some countries such as Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador have experienced internal conflict.

Additionally, in order to solve poverty issues from a medium- and long-term perspective, 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, including environmental problems and infectious diseases control, on a regional scale across national boundaries.

In addition to a national- and regional-level perspective, JICA considers it essential to provide cooperation to Central America and the Caribbean from the perspective of human security with a focus on individuals. To that end, JICA

actively supports self-help efforts of individual countries from the viewpoint of capacity development, and also pays due consideration to the socially vulnerable, such as women, children and poverty-stricken indigenous people.

In order to address priority issues in the development policies, 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 collaboration with regional integration organizations such as the System of Central American Integration (SICA) and other donors.

- 1) Education
- 2) Health and hygiene
- 3) Agricultural and rural development
- 4) Industrial development and development of socioeconomic infrastructures
- 5) Environmental conservation
- 6) Disaster prevention and citizens security

Current State of Development

Common Issues in the Region

Central America and the Caribbean region consists of 23 countries, of which eight countries are in Central America and 15 are in the Caribbean region, including Guyana and Surinam, which are located in the South American continent, and members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM). The region has many small countries with land areas of less than 10,000 km² and populations of less than one million people. Many countries in the region are based on agriculture and are dependent on the export of primary products. Though tourism is good in some countries, the manufacturing sector has yet to be developed except for Mexico and Costa Rica.

When looking at the situation of the whole region, peace-making 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. Relatively small countries adjoining this region except for Mexico

often share not only histories, cultures, and languages, but also development issues. Thus, based on the common recognition that regional development requires collaboration and unity among countries, the movement has gained momentum towards regional integration and cooperation, represented by the System of Central American Integration (SICA) and CARICOM.

However, despite these self-help efforts, disparities within and among countries are still very prominent as stated in the ODA Charter. As a result, poverty, security, and environmental issues have become critical in more countries. Since the region 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.

Ties with Japan

Mexico, the country with the largest land area and population in the region, is one of the Latin American countries with close

ties to Japan, as represented by the Economic Partnership Agreement that became effective in April 2005. Mexico has already implemented South-South cooperation for other Latin American countries and JICA actively supports this effort. However, poverty and environmental issues have to be overcome in the country.

All other countries in the region except Costa Rica, which enjoys relatively advanced socioeconomic development, are facing serious poverty issues. Aiming at peacebuilding and achieving democracy after a peace agreement, Japan has actively supported nation-building and human resource development in the region since the 1990s. In 1995, the Japan-Central America Forum was established to promote mutual understanding between Japan and SICA member countries and strengthen ties in areas such as diplomatic policies, economic and technical cooperation, and cultural exchange. A total of nine deputy foreign minister meetings were held until 2005.

Year 2005 marked the 70th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and five Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica). At Expo 2005 held in Nagoya, those

five countries sponsored the Central America Joint Pavilion as SICA members jointly with neighboring countries Panama and Belize. This led Japan and eight SICA member countries including the Dominican Republic to designate year 2005 as the Japan-Central America Year. In conjunction with the Exchange Year, the Japan-Central America Summit took place in August. The Tokyo Declaration and Action Plan adopted at this meeting call for strengthening ties between Japan and Central American countries and clarify the direction of future cooperation.

Though many Caribbean countries are small in size and population, and have gained independence only in recent years, their per capita income is relatively high and their economy scale is small. Accordingly, Japan does not have a strong record of cooperation in these countries. In the Caribbean, which consists of similar small countries, it is effective to provide support by region in addressing development issues common to the region using regional organizations such as CARICOM. Based on the results of annual working level diplomatic meetings, namely Japan-Caribbean Community Consultation, JICA carries out regionwide cooperation in such areas as disaster prevention, conservation of marine resources, and tourism development.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

JICA provides cooperation in Central America and the Caribbean in the following priority areas and future direction.

Education

The utmost priority is given to cooperation in basic education, particularly quantity expansion (increase in school enrollment) and quality improvement in primary education. The Improvement of Teaching Method in Mathematics implemented in Honduras is a typical example, and the outcome of the bilateral cooperation will be disseminated to other countries in the region.

Health and Hygiene

Priorities are given to the reduction of infant mortality,

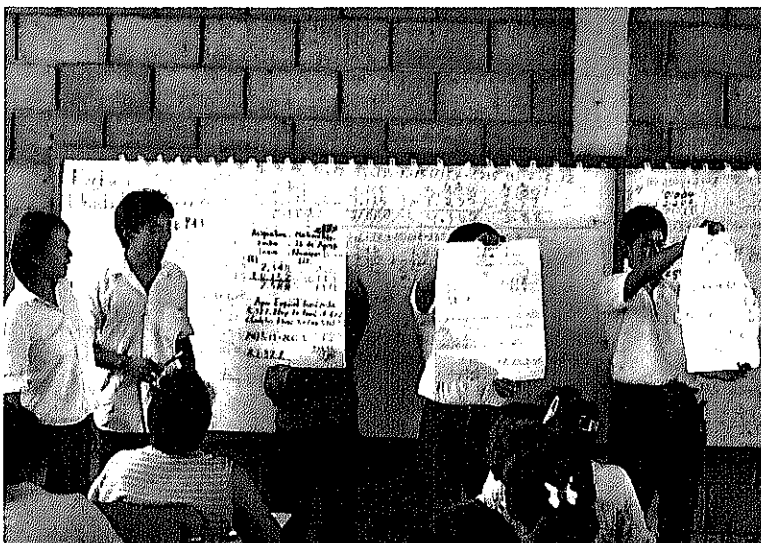
maternal and child health and reproductive health for improvement of the health of pregnant women, infectious disease control targeting the poverty group, improvement of regional health including training for nurses, support for persons with disabilities, and supply of safe drinking water. The Project for Vector Control of Chagas Disease implemented in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador is a typical example of regionwide cooperation in Central America.

Agricultural and Rural Development

The economies of many countries are based on agriculture and are dependent on the export of primary commodities. Many in the rural population are in poverty. In response, JICA provides cooperation from the perspective of improvements in agricultural productivity and livelihood of the poor and correction of disparities between urban and rural areas.

Development of Socioeconomic Infrastructures and Industrial Development

Medium- and long-term regional development requires cooperation not only to build socioeconomic infrastructures such as roads, ports, schools, and hospitals, but also to protect intellectual properties, develop domestic systems, such as specification standards and competition policies, and respond to the unfolding ICT (information and communications technology) era. Amid advancing economic globalization, it is also important to provide cooperation to activate small and medium-sized enterprises and promote trade and investment.



Mathematics teaching seminar for in-service teachers administered by JOCVs (The Improvement of Teaching Method in Mathematics in Honduras)

Environmental Conservation

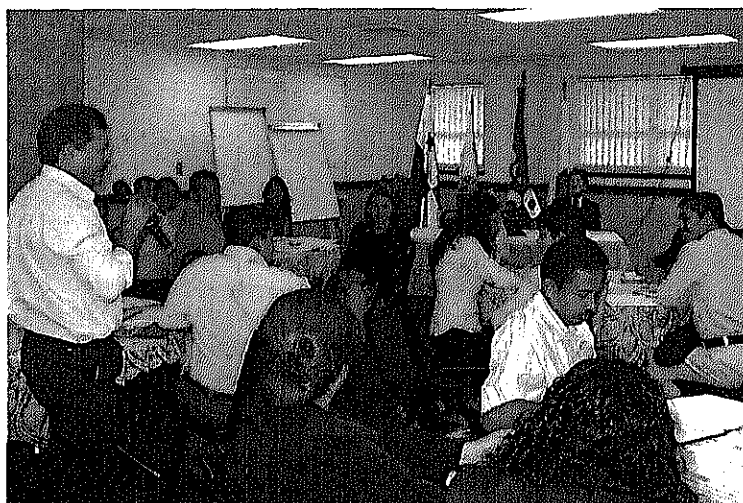
Waste management, water contamination, and response with regard to forests and marine resources have to be addressed in Central America. In addition to bilateral cooperation, JICA has been making joint efforts across national boundaries with a regional-level perspective.

Disaster Prevention

The primary task in this region is to overcome social vulnerabilities to natural disasters such as floods caused by hurricanes that hit the region every year and earthquakes. In response, JICA provides cooperation to promote disaster control on an administrative and community level. It is also necessary to utilize the lessons learned from the Great Sumatra Earthquake and the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004 in promoting disaster control in Central America. JICA will continue to carry out regionwide cooperation, using the Center of Coordination for the Prevention of National Disaster in Central America (in Guatemala), which is affiliated with SICA, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (in Barbados), which is affiliated with CARICOM, and the National Disaster Prevention Center (in Mexico) as its bases.

Citizens Security

The improvement of public safety, which realizes the region-



Pre-course training provided in Panama for training in Japan called Disaster Prevention in Central America to introduce Japan's disaster prevention measures and support improvement in disaster prevention systems in each country

al development of stable and healthy economy and society, is an issue shared by the countries in the region. JICA will cooperate with the Central American Institute of Advanced Police Studies (in El Salvador), which is affiliated with SICA, and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (in Costa Rica).

Front Line El Salvador

Enhancement of Technology for the Construction of Popular Earthquake Resistant Housing, etc.

In Pursuit of "Safe Housing" Based on the Perspective of Human Security

Utilizing the power of an earthquake-ridden country, Mexico

In response to threats against life and dignity of the people, the government of El Salvador, under the motto of "safe country" and "a government that cares for the people," embodies the concept of human security in its policies just as JICA does. JICA El Salvador Office supports this approach of the government and implements projects based on the perspective of human security, focusing on housing that provides safety to the poor as a single source of peace of mind.

One of the projects is the Enhancement of Technology for the Construction of Popular Earthquake Resistant Housing. This project is technical cooperation where material tests and seismic tests are performed in order to build houses that use inexpensive and earthquake-resistant materials in an earthquake-prone El Salvador. Japan implemented similar technical coopera-

tion in Mexico and its outcome has sustained as technologies well suited for Mexico. Thus, by having Mexican experts transfer technologies more suitable for El Salvador and supplementing technology and knowledge that cannot be covered by the Mexican experts, Japan is implementing effective cooperation.

Together with PAHO

Another technical cooperation project implemented in pursuit of "Safe Housing" is the Project for Vector Control of Chagas Disease. Major poor population in El Salvador live in houses made of sun-dried bricks called Adobe. Adobe houses are not only vulnerable to earthquakes, but also are easily infested by assassin bugs (blood sucking shield bugs) that are the vectors of deadly Chagas disease. In cooperation with Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), JICA is implementing the Project for

Vector Control of Chagas Disease in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in order to support Chagas disease control in the health ministries of those countries. The project involves eradication of assassin bugs, the vector of Chagas disease, from the houses and educational campaign activities in the community so that a hygienic housing environment and monitoring system can be established to prevent re-entry of assassin bugs.

(JICA El Salvador Office)



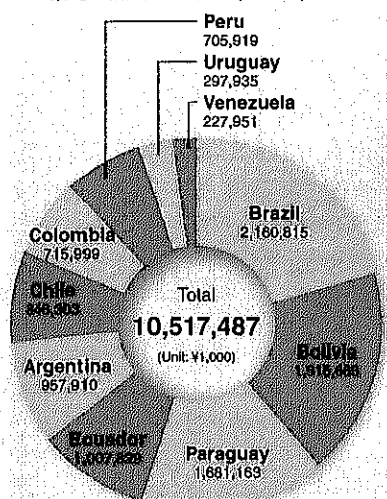
A Mexican expert explaining how to use experimental equipment to an El Salvadorian researcher. (left)

South America



Pillars of Aid Aiming at Sustainable Development by Correcting Disparities within and among Countries

■ Cooperation results by country in South America (FY2005)



*This is the total amount of bilateral cooperation. The amount of cooperation provided to North and Latin America including cooperation that covers a group of countries is 21,184,385 thousands of yen.

In South America, 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 disparities within and among countries and realize sustainable development in the region with the focus on the perspective of human security.

1. Poverty reduction and disparity correction
2. Sustainable economic growth
3. Addressing global issues
4. Peacemaking and support for the socially vulnerable
5. Promotion of regionwide cooperation and South-South cooperation in line with regional trends and characteristics
6. Active collaboration with Nikkei (Japanese descendant) communities

Current State of Development

In South America social disparities are historically prominent, triggered by colonial rule. In the 1980s, economic reform based on the policy of Neo-liberalism was promoted at the initiative of 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 achieve continuously stable economic growth, development of an investment environment, including promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, trade promotion measures, and improvement in governance 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 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) are 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 descendants have established a solid position as reliable members of the local regional society. Nikkei succeed in a wide area such as agriculture, health, and education, contribut-

ing 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

Poverty Reduction and Disparity Correction

JICA provides support to reduce poverty and correct disparities that are shared by most countries in South America with the focus on collaboration with central and local governments, civil organizations and other donors.

In Bolivia, the Project "Water is Vital" is ongoing. Model sites were chosen from villages where wells had been built with Japanese grant aid and water management committees were organized by the residents in cooperation with local NGOs to promote enhancement of the water rating system, train well operators in maintenance and management, and disseminate a hygienic lifestyle.

In Paraguay, JICA is implementing the Diversification of Beekeeping (Extension and Upgrade of Propolis, Pollen) to increase the honey production of small-scale apiary farmers in rural areas. As part of this project, a guidebook entitled "Illustrated Apiary Technology," which can be understood even by beginners or illiterate apiary workers, has been published in support of apiculture.

Sustainable Economic Growth

In order to address poverty reduction and disparity correction, the quality of life of the people needs to be improved by upgrading governance as well as generating employment through regional and national economic growth.

JICA is conducting the Study on Revitalization of Small and Medium Enterprises in Argentina for the purpose of revitalizing small and medium-sized enterprises that play a significant role in industrial structure to increase employment, as well as recommending policies and measures necessary for strengthening competitiveness in the international market. In Ecuador, JICA is carrying out the Project on Improvement of Vocational Training with the purpose of contributing to an increase in employment through development of excellent human resources in the areas of machinery, metals, electronics and electricity.

In Peru, with the aim of expanding agricultural production, Seed Quality Control is being implemented to produce and distribute high-quality seeds that meet international quality standards.

Addressing Global Issues

In South America, which has abundant natural resources and food supply capacity, cooperation to address cross-border issues such as environmental issues is important.

In Uruguay, the Project for Enhancement of Implementation Capacity of Afforestation and Reforestation CDM is being implemented. This project aims to strengthen the capacity of those engaged in afforestation to identify, plan, approve and implement CDM (clean development mechanism)* afforestation projects.

In Argentina, JICA is implementing the Project to Intensify Ozone Layer Studies in South America to transfer necessary technologies for observing the ozone layer and analyzing data and install equipment necessary for such activities. This project aims

to enhance the data supply system necessary to understand the conditions of ozone layer in the mid- and high-altitude areas of South America.

In Brazil, the Project for Forest Conservation and Environmental Education in the Eastern Amazon is ongoing, mainly in the Ecological Park of Gunma, a tropical rainforest reserve located in the suburb of Belem City, Para State, managed by immigrants from Gunma Prefecture. The project aims to promote natural environment education and disseminate agroforestry technologies.

Peacebuilding and Support for the Socially Vulnerable

To support internally displaced persons and the socially vulnerable, efforts aimed at reconstructing basic living infrastructure are required.

In Columbia, volunteers are dispatched to facilities where internally displaced persons and the socially vulnerable are housed. They give instructions on recreational activities and small plays that foster imagination as well as on the production of crafts using available materials so that the children in those facilities can have opportunities for the future. Moreover, a feasibility study is underway toward realization of the Support for Establishment of Microenterprise to the Household of People Reincorporated to the Civilian Life in cooperation with SENA (National Training Service), which assists the families of former soldiers who are disarmed and defected from outlawed organizations such as left-wing guerrillas and paramilitary groups.

JICA is implementing the Rehabilitation for Disabled People Project in the Republic of Chile, in order to improve rehabilitation services of the Pedro Aguirre Cerda National Institute of Rehabilitation (INRPAC), which is the only institution of its kind in the country.



A Japanese expert giving instructions on physical therapy skills to the staff of the rehabilitation hospital for children (Rehabilitation for Disabled People Project in the Republic of Chile)

*Joint efforts for promoting greenhouse gas reduction among industrialized and developing countries included in the Kyoto Protocol adopted at the Kyoto Conference on the Prevention of Global Warming in 1997. They can be divided into emission source CDM, whose aim is reducing emissions from factories and other facilities, and absorption CDM, whose aim is to absorb and fix CO₂ by means of afforestation.

Promotion of Regionwide Cooperation and South-South Cooperation in Line with Regional Trends and Characteristics

Since countries in South America share similarities in terms of history, culture and language, regional ties are very strong. Thus, assistance through regional mutual cooperation is important to address development issues common to the region.

For the purpose of contributing to the improvement of export



Environmental education training, including a nature game at the Ecological Park of Gunma: More than 900 people have participated in this training in the first two years from the beginning. (The Project for Forest Conservation and Environmental Education in the Eastern Amazon in Brazil)

competitiveness of each member of the MERCOSUR, JICA is conducting the Study on Packaging Technology Improvement for Merchandise Distribution in MERCOSUR Regional Products to investigate transportation conditions within the region and set out rational packaging design and test standards.

JICA also is implementing the Project of the Capacity Development for Improvement of Livestock Hygiene in the Southern Part of South America through Regionwide Cooperation in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay, in order to develop human resources development systems in relation to livestock disease diagnosis and establish a network necessary for personal collaboration and sharing information on diagnosis and epidemiology.

Furthermore, various cooperation projects are being provided under respective partnership programs in Chile (JCPP: Japan-Chile Partnership Program), Argentina (PPJA: Partnership Program for Joint Cooperation between Japan and Argentina), and Brazil (JBPP: Japan-Brazil Partnership Program).

Collaboration with Nikkei Communities

Many Nikkei play active roles in various areas in South America, contributing to regional development and fostering friendship and trusting relationships with Japan. They are key players in international cooperation and collaboration with them is quite effective.

In collaboration with Nikkei communities, Brazil has long dispatched Brazilian experts of Japanese ancestry to other countries in South America. Recently, there are also cases in which Brazilian experts of Japanese ancestry are dispatched for technical cooperation to Angola and Mozambique in Africa where the official language is Portuguese as in Brazil.

Front Line Paraguay

Diversification of Beekeeping

Promotion of Apiculture and Securing Markets for the Prospect of Export

Production of marketable honey

Paraguay is an agricultural country with more than 30% of its GDP coming from agricultural products. More than 80% of agricultural producers are small-scale farmers, and the majority are engaged in self-sufficient agriculture. JICA has long given guidance in apiculture technology in Paraguay, where approximately 7,000 farming households produce honey. However, the honey hardly reaches the quality of the international market and is sold in the local markets on a small scale.

Diversification of Beekeeping (Extension and Upgrade of Propolis, Pollen) implemented by JICA aims to help small-scale farmers produce not only marketable honey, but also value-added propolis for export. The production of honey drops immediately if you neglect the work even a month. In addition, a detailed response is important to

organize producers' groups and have farmers acquire sales skills, while gaining their trust. To that end, JICA dispatches a Nikkei expert who has rich experience in production and sales from its neighboring country, Brazil, to Paraguay twice a month to offer guidance to five model producers' groups throughout the country. As a result, one year after the launch of the project, honey yields increased three times on average.

Collaboration among Nikkei experts

However, once production surges, securing the market emerges as a serious issue. Intending to improve management of the central wholesale market in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, JICA has additionally dispatched another Nikkei expert from Brazil. Thanks to joint support from the two JICA experts, the producers' groups have succeeded

in acquiring a space to sell farm-fresh honey in the central wholesale market and income has been stabilized. Now the farmers have gained incentive and confidence towards their dream of producing and exporting propolis.

Other donors have expressed their wish to learn the method of this project. Positive development is expected in the future, including collaboration with those donors.

(JICA Paraguay Office)



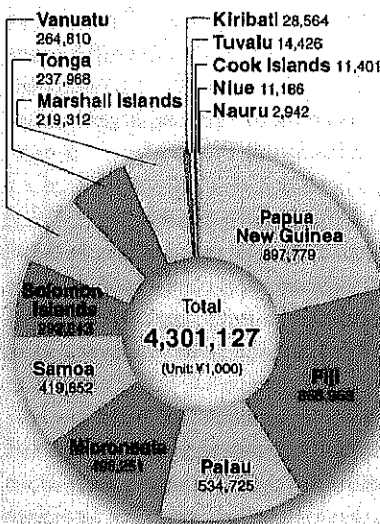
Local farmers under technical guidance from Brazilian Nikkei experts

Oceania



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

■ Cooperation results by country in Oceania (FY2005)



*This is the total amount of bilateral cooperation. The amount of cooperation provided to Oceania including cooperation that covers a group of countries is 4,478,882 thousands of yen.

Many difficulties persist in Oceania in realizing sustainable development, including: 1) a vulnerable economic structure that depends on primary industries; 2) impacts from environmental problems such as climatic change; and 3) limiting factors specific to island countries, such as isolation and small size. The primary issue in such a region is to develop sustainable, socially and economically self-reliant societies. In order to realize social and economic independence, JICA supports the expansion of basic social services and the promotion of economic growth. At the same time, in order to realize a sustainable environment, JICA provides assistance with an emphasis on environmental conservation and the proper management of resources.

In terms of the expansion of basic social services, volunteers are dispatched and many administrative officials are accepted as training participants primarily in the sectors of primary and secondary education, vocational training,

and health. In the sector of health, JICA supports the expansion of immunization and promotes cooperation that addresses infectious diseases such as filariasis.

As support for the promotion of economic growth, dispatch of volunteers and receiving training participants are the core of the assistance for promoting tourism and agriculture and fishery that are the primary industries of countries in Oceania. With respect to the development of social infrastructure such as roads, ports, and power and water supply, financial assistance for the construction of facilities and technical cooperation aiming at improving the maintenance and operation skills 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. Australia, New Zealand, EU, etc., have become the major donors for bilateral aid to developing countries in Oceania. 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. The content of the aid has recently started shifting to program/project-type aid.

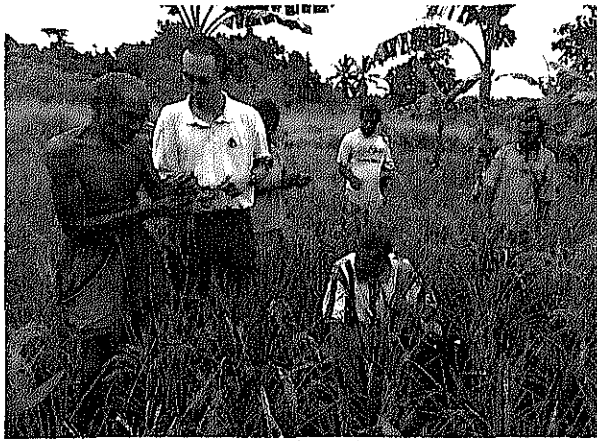
Issues Common to the Region

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; developing human resources who will lead national development; and the development of inter-island transportation and communication infrastructure. It is therefore essential to adopt a comprehensive approach to the region.

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), a framework for regional cooperation, adopted a regional development plan called the Pacific Plan in October 2005. The Pacific Plan clarifies four primary common goals for the region: 1) economic growth; 2) sustainable development; 3) good governance; and 4) security. JICA supports the self-help efforts of each country to achieve these goals.

Building on the Results of the Japan-PIF Summit Meeting

In order to facilitate and expand its partnership with the



A Japanese expert provides technical guidance to farmers to promote small-scale rice cultivation for the realization of self-sufficiency. (Papua New Guinea)

Pacific island countries, Japan has been hosting the Japan-PIF Summit Meeting (PALM) once every three years starting in 1997.

In May 2003, the third PALM was held in Okinawa. 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, 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 reflects the results of the summit. In May 2006, three years after the third PALM, the fourth PALM was held again in Okinawa and future cooperation policies between Japan and PIF countries were discussed. JICA continues to provide cooperation under the policies adopted at PALM.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Support for Self-reliance and Sustainable Environment

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 many countries gained their independence relatively recently and are dependent on primary industries, developing human resources who will lead national development is mostly required. 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 support 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 countries and international organizations active in the region.

1. Support for Social and Economic Self-reliance

With regard to support for social and economic self-reliance, cooperation is provided under the pillars of expansion of basic social services such as education and health and the support for economic growth.

In the sector of education, cooperation is being provided in primary education and vocational training through the dispatch of volunteers and the acceptance of training participants with a view to fostering human resources who will be able to lead economic management, development planning, and national development in major industries. Cooperation is also being provided in the form of distance learning in order to disseminate education in rural remote areas.

In the health sector, in addition to providing cooperation for the improvement of basic health services, JICA promotes the

human resources development in each country in cooperation with various international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), regarding infectious disease control as an issue common to the region.

From the standpoint of promoting economic growth, cooperation for the promotion of tourism, agriculture and fishery is being provided through the dispatch of volunteers and the acceptance of training participants to assist each country's own efforts for achieving national economic self-reliance. Also, in order to develop infrastructure for industrial development, infrastructure in response to the needs of island countries, including communication and broadcasting, transportation, power, and roads, are being built with grant aid in combination with cooperation for improving maintenance and operation capacity.

2. Support for Sustainable Environment

Environmental conservation and proper management of resources are vital to maintain the environment sustainable. 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 support for a sustainable environment, in addition to cooperation directly aimed at environmental conservation such as conservation of coral reefs and solid waste management, JICA provides cooperation for coastal resource control that is necessary for proper management and use of resources.

In small island countries where land is limited, solid waste management is an especially serious problem. Cooperation is being provided in collaboration with other international organizations active in the region to assist the efforts of the Pacific island countries as a whole. In addition to cooperation for human resources development provided through regionwide training that targets countries in the region and is provided in Samoa, technical cooperation for the improvement of waste disposal sites is being provided in Palau and Vanuatu. Technical cooperation for the Palau International Coral Reef Center, a base for coral reef conservation, and cooperation for regionwide human resources development through the dispatch of experts and training for the



A JOCV in environmental education explains the new waste collection system that will be introduced, (Fiji)

coastal resources management, are also under way.

Cooperation Beneficial Regionwide

In Oceania, coordination and collaborative cooperation with

other aid agencies and international organizations take place. In the sector of health, for example, regionwide technical cooperation is provided to improve policies and planning for the implementation of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and nurture EPI field workers in 13 countries and areas in collaboration with other donors (WHO, UNICEF, Australia, etc.) who support strengthening EPI.

As a partner in the Pacific Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (PacELF), which is implemented by WHO targeting 22 countries and areas in the region, JICA provides medicine and examination kits and dispatches JOCVs.

Other examples of cooperation conducted through international organizations active in the region include regionwide technical cooperation for the proper management of solid waste based on the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

Front Line Papua New Guinea

Project for Enhancing Quality in Teaching through TV Program

Enhance Teaching Quality in Remote Areas Using Educational TV Programs

Challenges for educational reform in remote islands and mountains

Papua New Guinea (hereinafter called PNG) is an island country consisting of thousands of islands. PNG is a distinct country in that there are no roads connecting cities even on the main island, and travel and transportation between cities in the country depend solely on airplanes. In PNG, many schools stand on remote islands and among precipitous mountains.

The government of PNG, positioning education as a primary sector for the national development, implemented a bold educational reform. As a result, teachers who used to teach fifth and

sixth graders now need to teach up to junior high school level. They also teach more subjects and need to change the teaching technique from the conventional blackboard writing style to a more student-focused style. However, it is extremely difficult to gather in-service teachers from remote islands in the capital for training for the new educational system.

Educational TV programs that gained understanding of the public

In order to address this problem, in fiscal 2006, JICA started producing and broadcasting educational TV programs at the Education Media Center built with

Japan's grant aid

Initial investment costs to purchase necessary equipment such as TV sets are a huge burden for local residents. However, the advantage of broadcasting is that once the necessary equipment is in place, educational programs in response to the needs of the moment can be provided continuously even on remote islands and among precipitous mountains. Two types of educational TV programs are currently being broadcast. One is intended for children and explains in an easy-to-understand manner the main points of each unit aiming at knowledge acquisition in each subject. The other is for teachers and shows model class teaching styles aiming at teaching technique acquisition.

Educational TV programs have gained the understanding of PNG citizens, and there are now examples of self-help efforts such as schools and communities cooperating in unison to finance the maintenance and operation of equipment.

The key players in a class are teachers and students. The educational TV programs that support those key players increase expectations from schools and communities.

(JICA Papua New Guinea Office)



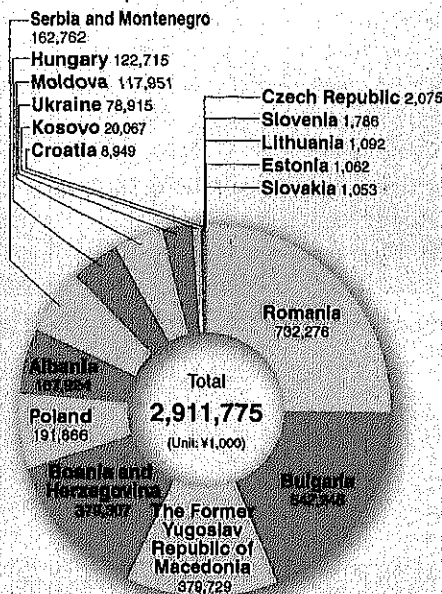
Staff members of the Media Center learn TV program production through simulation. Photo by Kenshiro Imamura

Europe



Pillars of Aid Focus on Aid to the Western Balkans

Cooperation results by country in Europe (FY2005)



*This is the total amount of bilateral cooperation. The amount of cooperation provided to Europe including cooperation that covers a group of countries is 2,950,650 thousands of yen.

Support for transition to a market economy in Poland and Hungary started in 1989. Since then, JICA has expanded support to Europe, including the former Soviet Union Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and Eastern Europe. Already, many countries in Eastern Europe have completed economic and social reforms despite many difficulties. Since 10 countries where JICA provided technical cooperation, including Poland and Hungary, acceded to the EU in May 2004, JICA's support for transition to a market economy in Eastern Europe completed its mission to a certain degree.

In the Western Balkans, cooperation has been provided in coordination with the international society mainly for the restoration of infrastructure destroyed in the conflicts of former Yugoslavia and Kosovo. Although reconstruction has progressed and the economy has achieved

a certain degree of growth, structural factor of instability remains in multi-ethnic societies still suffering from the aftermath of ethnic conflicts.

In this region, 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 peace consolidation and economic development. To that end, an approach from the local level, with the perspective of human security, is essential and it is therefore necessary to improve a local implementation system immediately.

Based on these situations, JICA reviewed its aid policy and operation system in Europe from a medium-term perspective, and is shifting its focus of aid to cooperation in the Western Balkans. JICA will also reexamine the local coordination system to improve its activities.

Current State of Development

Unstable Factors in the Western Balkans

At the time when Central and Eastern European countries began social reforms for a transition to a market economy, the Western Balkans experienced conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo. This was known as the tragedy of Yugoslavia. Bosnia and Herzegovina and the New Yugoslavia (currently divided into Serbia and Montenegro), which were directly involved with the conflict, as well as countries such as Macedonia, whose economy was hit by these conflicts, were tremendously damaged and their development was significantly delayed compared to those in Central and Eastern Europe.

International society supported reconstruction and nation-building in these countries in concert following the Dayton Agreement and the birth of democratic administration in Serbia. As a result, these countries in the Western Balkans now enjoy a certain degree of social stability and economic recovery. However, as these countries are not free from unstable social factors derived from being multi-ethnic, they are struggling to push forward their nation-building.

Although the economies recovered to pre-conflict levels, these countries have not achieved development as successfully as those in Central and Eastern Europe, which achieved a significant economic growth led by the introduction of foreign capital as a benefit of the expansion of the EU to the East. The high unemployment rate is an issue common to Western Balkan countries and it is a concern that it may cause instability to surface.



Building a website for museums in Bulgaria, "BOMBI!" (<http://www.jicabg.com/museum/>), as part of the support for museums given by a JOCV

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Western Balkans

Based on Japan's aid policy agreed upon at the Ministerial Conference on Peace Consolidation and Economic Development of the Western Balkans held in 2004, JICA has provided support mainly in the field of economic development and peace consolidation. Since job creation is the utmost priority in economic development, capacity building for promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and investment promotion are provided in combination. These are the approaches with which JICA has succeeded in Asia and other regions.

On the other hand, JICA does not have much experience in the area of peace consolidation. JICA, being a development agency, and not a diplomatic or political organization, is experimenting with various kinds of development projects to facilitate ethnic reconciliation such as:

- a. Providing community development activities to promote joint participation of people of different ethnicities, including returnees in the areas where many internally displaced persons were produced.
- b. Providing opportunities to work and study together for students of different ethnicities through ICT extra-curricular activities,

and common modernized ICT curriculum.

- c. Inviting school teachers selected from each ethnic group to Japan to observe the current situation in Japan, where prosperity was achieved through peace and stability after the war. They have discussions to improve their peace education for students who will lead the country in the future.

Ukraine and Moldova

Assistance for Ukraine is focused on economic development led by the transition to a market economy. Specifically, cooperation is provided for human resources development in business. Japan's experience and knowledge are greatly expected in this area and thus JICA is planning to cooperate the Japan Center project.

Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and the priority issues are the improvements in livelihood and productivity in agriculture, which is the primary industry of Moldova. Since both local ODA implementation systems and aid amount are limited, JICA works to operate projects efficiently and effectively by combining grant aid and technical cooperation with a focus on those priority issues.

Front Line Bosnia and Herzegovina

Supporting the Self-reliance of Srebrenica Residents

Community Development Focusing on the Perspective of Human Security

Damage from ethnic conflicts

Many Muslims (Bosniaks) used to reside in Srebrenica, close to the border with Serbia. However, when an ethnic conflict occurred in March 1992, the city was besieged by Serbian forces, and by the end of August 1995, the conflict produced many victims. On the other hand,

in the Skelani district, located approximately one-hour from the center of Srebrenica, many Serbs used to reside. In 1993, Muslims attacked the district on new year's day of Serbian Orthodox calendar and many residents fell victim.

In Skelani district, the residents started to return home in 2002, and minimum aid for basic local infrastructure reconstruction seems to be on track. However, many residents, including the returnees and single-mother families that lost their breadwinners, still rely on aid supplies, various pensions, and child support funds. This area is severely damaged by the preceding conflict, and support for ethnic reconciliation and

economic independence is necessary.

Looking toward the reconciliation of the two ethnic groups

To provide cooperation for ethnic reconciliation and economic independence, JICA dispatched a rural development expert in March 2006 and started a community development project based on agriculture. The expert is assisting mainly returnees and single-mother households of both ethnic groups through restoring the livestock market, fodder production, joint use of tractors, vegetable cultivation, fruit tree planting, and crop processing through NGOs run jointly by Muslims and Serbs.

JICA aims to play a vital role in the reconciliation of the ethnic groups whose relationship with each other has been severed by the conflict by promoting joint activities of the residents in the area.

(JICA Austria Office)



At the opening ceremony of the project, agricultural equipment and fruit plants were handed over.