

Africa

Pillars of Aid

Following up the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV)

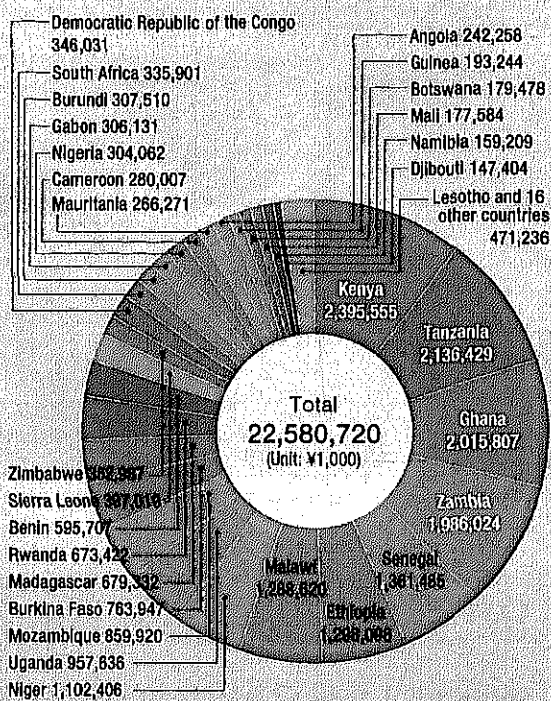
The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) was held in Yokohama on May 28-30, 2008. TICAD IV was attended by representatives of 51 African countries, including 41 heads of state, and representatives of many international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank, who engaged in discussions concerning future African development.

African economies have performed favorably in recent years, buoyed by escalating prices of oil and mineral resources and increased overseas investment due to the decrease in the number of conflicts. Some countries have recorded economic growth exceeding 5%. However, numerous longstanding problems remain, such as conflict, famine, infectious diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, low school enrollment rates, and accumulated debt. These problems continue to threaten the livelihoods of African people, as do the rising global oil and food prices.

To help African countries deal with these issues, TICAD IV produced the Yokohama Action Plan, a specific program for African development assistance. The plan calls for continued assistance in the areas of healthcare, elementary education, and drinking water from the perspective of human security, and at the same time places particular emphasis on accelerating sound economic development in Africa. This includes developing industrial infrastructure, especially roads and electric power networks, promoting trade and investment, improving agricultural productivity, and increasing collaboration with private enterprises. A policy on addressing the current global issue of environmental destruction and climate change was also detailed.

JICA seeks to realize the assistance plan formulated at TICAD IV. Therefore, it will establish an effective system for following up the plan and will provide assistance for African development in close consultation with African countries.

● Cooperation results by country in Africa (FY2007)



* This is the total amount of bilateral cooperation. The amount of cooperation provided to Africa including cooperation that covers a group of countries is 23,016,786 thousand yen.

Current State of Development

Peace, Stability and Economic Growth in Africa

While African economies have stagnated since the latter half of the 1970s, phenomenal growth has been achieved by East Asia: the NIES (including the Republic of Korea and Taiwan), ASEAN (including Thailand and Malaysia), and, in particular, the People's Republic of China.

Since the end of the 1990s, however, African countries have succeeded in stabilizing macroeconomic administration, after undergoing a period of economic and administrative reform. On this basis, and thanks to government measures based on

poverty reduction plans and debt reductions initiated by donors, signs of improvements in such social services as basic education, healthcare and water supply have finally begun to be seen. Conflicts still exist, particularly in Darfur and Somalia, but in areas including the African Great Lakes, Sudan, and Liberia, steady progress toward peace and stability is being achieved. Recently, moreover, spurred by South Africa's growing participation in the African economy and rising prices of oil and mineral resources, Africa has recorded overall economic growth exceeding 5%.

Increased African Ownership

Since the first TICAD held in 1993, Japan has consistently emphasized the importance of African ownership in development and of partnership with the international community.

This approach was cemented with the formulation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a comprehensive model for development undertaken at Africa's initiative, in 2001, following the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, which was the first G8 summit meeting to fully take up African issues. In addition, the African Union (AU), which consists of 53 countries and regions on the African continent, takes up the issues of conflict and poverty as Africa's own and takes concrete action based on a firm commitment to solve problems independently. These developments demonstrate that the sense of ownership is growing in Africa.

Asia's Experience and Africa's Development

Against the background of China's aggressive economic push in Africa and the rapid growth of India, which has traditionally had strong economic ties with Africa, African countries themselves have recently stressed the importance of linking the

Asian Miracle to the realization of an African Miracle.

Looking back on Asia's past economic growth, Japan's input of approximately 60% of its bilateral ODA into Asia has been regarded as highly effective. The development of economic infrastructure in Asia through Japan's ODA has generated the synergistic effect of spurring private-sector investment. Of course, given the major differences that exist between Asia and Africa in terms of their histories and their natural, social, and economic environments, applying the experience of Asia directly to Africa is difficult. Nevertheless, it is important that Africa recognizes the importance of establishing its own development strategy by reflecting on the East Asian miracle and other historical circumstances and reviewing such factors as the role of government, distribution of wealth, and sustainable development. On that basis, JICA intends to expand assistance to Africa by joining hands with other Asian countries. Based on its experience in Asia where years of assistance led to growth, JICA will extend the same win-win relationship between ODA and private-sector investment to Africa.

Addressing Priority Issues

Assistance to Accelerate Growth

The principal targets of assistance to promote economic growth include: (1) the development of basic infrastructure such as transportation, communications, and energy; (2) the development of a trade and investment environment to serve as an engine of growth; (3) the general improvement of agriculture, upon which approximately 70% of the population depends; and (4) the development of the human resources for supporting economic growth, particularly through education in science, mathematics and technology.

1. Infrastructure

Given that many African countries are landlocked, delays in the development of cross-border infrastructure and in the streamlining of customs procedures have been hampering the integration of regional economies, the expansion of markets, and the economic vitalization of rural communities.

Therefore, JICA has emphasized region-wide infrastructure development, particularly the development of highway and electric power networks, in order to promote African development from a cross-border perspective.

In addition, JICA's infrastructure development assistance focuses not only on hardware but also on people: it incorporates human resources development for operation and maintenance of infrastructure and the promotion of local development. For example, in a roadway improvement project between Kenya and Tanzania that will set up border facilities with unified customs procedures, or one-stop border posts, JICA is providing technical cooperation for capacity development of the customs bureau staff of these border facilities. In another activity, JICA provides AIDS-prevention advice to truck drivers who have stopped at borders to stem the spread of AIDS to the surrounding community. Thus, assistance for roadway infrastructure is applied comprehensively, covering both hardware and human aspects. Furthermore, to help the people living along the roads to receive the benefits of infrastructure development, JICA is erecting road stations (for example, in Mozambique) with a view to promoting local development.

2. Promoting Trade and Investment

Foreign direct investment in Africa is expanding rapidly, having risen from US\$10 billion in 2000 to US\$30 billion in 2005. Direct investment from newly-emerging economies such as China, India, and Malaysia in particular has been rising, which is creating both jobs and growth opportunities in Africa.

Many African countries, however, are faced with operational obstacles, such as inadequate policies and institutions concerning the development of the private sector and the promotion of trade and investment. Furthermore, most employment in Africa happens in the informal sector and nearly all employers are micro-businesses or small and medium enterprises, which leads to weak technical capacity and product development capabilities.

To help Africa deal with these issues, JICA provides various kinds of assistance which include: (1) assistance for developing investment environments and promoting CSR activities to spur inflows of private-sector funds; (2) support for the local private sector; and (3) assistance for promoting the export of African products, such as enhancing product development and improving the import environment.

In Zambia, for example, JICA is supporting implementation of the Triangle of Hope policy aimed at developing an environment for attracting investment, in cooperation with Malaysia. The policy sets the following as three essential requirements for promoting investment: (1) the commitment of government; (2) effective administration; and (3) active participation by the private sector. Based on this policy, Zambia has established 12 taskforces under the president's initiative to promote such items as special compound-use economic zones, ICT, and tourism. The taskforces are comprised of people from both public and private sectors, and have so far improved institutions for meeting the above requirements. In addition, as a result of the mutual dispatch of joint government/private-sector missions by Zambia and Malaysia, several joint ventures have been established in Zambia.

3. Agriculture

In Africa, as many as 200 million residents suffer from chronic malnutrition, and food shortages have become severe due to drought, flooding and other natural disasters. Considering that grain imports are increasing at an annual rate of 3-4% and that population increases remain high at more than 2.5%, there is an urgent need to increase food production and thereby secure stable food supplies.

However, agricultural technology lags behind in Africa, without adequate fertilizer, pesticide and irrigation facilities. The productivity of land remains low, and with persistently low incomes, farmers are unable to escape from an adverse cycle of poverty caused by lack of resources to be diverted to improving production technology. This situation has consequently led to economic and social problems, including increasing food imports, deterioration of natural resources, desertification, and excessive inflow of population into cities.

JICA is focusing assistance on developing Africa's rice production. The rationale behind this is the growing need for rice production in Africa, the greater potential for rice development through NERICA rice (New Rice for Africa), and the unique advantage of Japanese assistance. In collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) chaired by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Africa Rice Center (WARDA), and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), JICA plans to develop and extend rice production technology suited to the various forms of rice cultivation, such as rainwater and irrigation production, centering on cultivation and farming technology proven through past assistance. JICA will thereby promote comprehensive assistance, extending from bases in Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania to surrounding countries.

4. Science and Technology

Amid the growing trend toward globalization and the shift to knowledge-based societies, African countries must actively promote wide-ranging human resources development to deal independently with the problems that hinder economic growth.

For this reason, it is not only necessary for African countries to provide basic education but also to formulate and implement higher education policies in line with national and industrial policy. At the same time, they must create an environment that prevents brain drain and that encourages talented people who have migrated overseas to return home. To address this need, JICA is assisting in the development of a human resources base covering the entire educational sector.

To be specific, JICA is working to disseminate technology from its base in Uganda and Senegal, where Japan has cooperated on technical education and job training in the past, to surrounding countries, based on the need for science and technology and industrial development in sub-Saharan Africa countries. In Rwanda, JICA is enhancing human resources development in science and technology across all education spectrums (science and mathematics education as well as technical and teacher training in lower-secondary and high schools) with a view to moving to a knowledge-based economy through the development of engineers with ICT skills, which is essential for realizing economic development through industrial vitalization.

Assistance for Achieving the MDGs Based on the Perspective of Human Security

The concept of "human security" focuses on two issues: freedom from want, which includes poverty, hunger, and the shortage of education and healthcare services (i.e., the need for development and poverty reduction); and freedom from fear, which relates to conflict, terrorism, crime, human rights violations, the spread of infectious diseases, environmental destruction, economic crises, and disasters (i.e., the need for peace and security). Both issues have to be dealt comprehensively. Focusing its projects on human security, JICA provides assistance for community development, education, healthcare, and peace building, which are central to achieving the MDGs.

1. Community Development

Based on the concept of human security, JICA is pursuing a development approach under the keywords, "community-based," "comprehensive," and "cross-sectoral" in many projects in Africa. For example, in the rural development of the Eastern Province of Rwanda, JICA supports the comprehensive community development of local farming communities through a wide-ranging approach combining water, sanitation, agriculture, farm community development, and transportation in order to improve the lives and incomes of local residents and realize human security.

JICA is also implementing measures in Malawi, Ghana and other countries based on Japan's experience with the One Village One Product movement (OVOP). In these efforts, JICA is promoting community development aimed at empowering communities under the slogan, "people's awareness changes communities." In Malawi, due to the ingenuity of residents, more than 20 new products have been made available at local markets. Ghana,

meanwhile, has obtained assistance in merchandising shea butter created through the One Village One Product movement. It now exports the product to other countries, including Japan.

The One Village One Product movement emphasizes community empowerment, and to expand OVOP throughout Africa, JICA is providing assistance to other African countries in addition to Malawi and Ghana, in line with introducing the movement and developing its support structures.

2. Education

Investment in education based on self-help efforts is a highly effective means of reducing poverty and furthering economic growth in developing countries. Therefore, JICA is taking steps aimed at expanding access to basic education, enhancing the quality of education, and improving management.

In Niger, a West African country where the spread of elementary education lags furthest behind, JICA is implementing the "School for All" project. In this project, JICA helps residents to participate in school management, and, through collaboration with local administration, promotes the enrollment of children in school. As the project proved successful in a pilot district, the Niger Ministry of Education formulated a plan to introduce a school management improvement model developed by this project to elementary schools throughout the country. At present, the World Bank is extending the model nationwide in accordance with this plan. Using the experience in Niger, JICA intends to expand assistance for improving the capacity to perform school management through local residents' participation to surrounding countries in West Africa.

In addition, Japan has been implementing the Strengthening

of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASSE) Project in Kenya since 1998, using its strengths in science and mathematics education. This project attracted the attention of neighboring countries, culminating in the formation of an intra-regional cooperative network in 2002 centered on SMASSE (SMASSE-WECSA network). The network has now been extended to 33 countries.

3. Health

In sub-Saharan Africa, problems specified in the MDGs, such as infectious diseases, illnesses caused by pregnancy and childbirth, child illnesses, and poor nutrition, are the principal factors threatening people's health. With a view to achieving the MDGs, most of the funds in support of the health field are channeled into measures against specific diseases centered in sub-Saharan Africa, including AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, including vaccinations. On the other hand, since the foundation for providing healthcare services remains weak in Africa, it is essential to strengthen the healthcare systems that support the provision of individual services and the implementation of programs, which is needed for achieving the MDGs.

For this reason, JICA places emphasis on infectious disease control and maternal healthcare with a view to achieving the health priorities of the MDGs: reducing infant mortality, improving the health of expectant mothers, and preventing the spread of infectious disease. Furthermore, JICA combines these measures with the improvement of healthcare systems as a comprehensive effort to address a range of individual issues for achieving the MDGs. By doing so, it aims to provide highly

effective assistance.

Specifically, JICA is providing assistance for infectious disease control focusing on individual illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS prevention and education activities, and for maternal and reproductive health in the French-speaking region of West Africa.

JICA's assistance in strengthening healthcare systems includes enhancing local health care administrative capacity and community healthcare activities. The aim is to extend each of the above kinds of cooperation to countries throughout the region.

4. Peace Building

Peace and security are considered to be the essential preconditions for Africa to pursue economic and social development and to achieve the MDGs. With the establishment of the African Union and other self-help efforts, many of the numerous conflicts ended, and Africa is now moving toward political stability. Due to efforts to secure public order and foster harmony among the people in countries like Mozambique, Angola and Rwanda, peace is taking root in Africa.

In order to seize this opportunity and achieve sustainable peace in Africa, it is more important than ever to implement post-conflict reconstruction and development effectively, while respecting the ownership of the countries concerned.

JICA is conducting peace-building projects in various post-conflict countries in Africa, including Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which are key to securing peace and stability in Africa, as well as in Burundi and Sierra Leone which are the pilot countries of the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

Front Line

Benin

Generating Income through Soap Making

Promoting the Independence of Disadvantaged Persons in Farming Communities

Starting assistance to the poor in farming communities

In Benin, where agricultural workers account for 80% of the population, it has been said that the key to economic growth is development of the poor in farming communities. Benin has achieved remarkable development in recent years primarily in urban areas, and the Benin government, with support from donors, has established social development policies and provided assistance to the socially vulnerable in order to improve the income of the poor. However, the reality is that this assistance has not reached the poor in farming communities. Since 2005, JICA has dispatched Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to farming communities in Benin to provide grass-roots level assistance for group activities undertaken by persons with disabilities and women, who are socially vulnerable. This assistance is aimed at changing the attitudes of disadvantaged persons and encouraging them to participate in society. To that end, it involves income generation activities such as the fabrication of rush mats, food sales, and soap making.

Promoting Independence through Soap Making

In September 2007, a mixed group of women and persons with disabilities from a rural community began soap-making activities in order to boost their incomes. Group members gathered together once a week to engage not only in soap making but also in various other activities.

At the start of these activities, members held discussions and shared problem issues and details of activities within the group, using the participatory cycle management (PCM) method. In addition, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, an event was held to educate community residents about persons with disabilities and to promote sales of soap. Later, a participatory workshop on group

management was held for members who were just beginning group activities and who were completely illiterate. Members were divided into four groups and held discussions based on three case studies. Through a participation-type method of sharing discussion results at the conclusion session, they learned the significance of group activities and the basics of group management. They are also working to strengthen networks between the group and public organizations in the community such as welfare centers and city offices. (Benin JICA Representative Office)



Group members extracting palm oil

Specific activities include: (1) assistance in the enactment of urban development plans and restoration of piers and other critical facilities in Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan; (2) training for democratization of the 10,000-strong police force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in collaboration with the UN's MONUC; (3) reintegration assistance for children displaced during the civil war in Sierra Leone and assistance for the restoration of electric power and water supply facilities.

Measures against Environmental and Climate Change

In May 2007, Japan proposed the "Cool Earth 50" initiative that called for, as a common long-term goal for the world, a halving by 2050 of worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases compared to current emissions. In addition, for developing countries strongly motivated to change their policies and achieve both economic growth and environmental protection, Japan stated its intention to provide assistance through a new funding mechanism to the following end: (1) easing climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases; (2) adapting to climate change through measures to offset the adverse impact of climate change; and (3) expanding the use of clean, alternative energy sources such as solar, hydroelectric and geothermal.

Japan intends to incorporate Africa, which is vulnerable to climate change, into the overall assistance framework and to devise proper measures. Specifically, assistance will be focused on measures against flooding, drought, desertification, and water shortages, as well as on adaptation measures such as dissemination of NERICA rice, which is resistant to drought, construction of irrigation facilities, and malaria control. The plan also calls for forest resources development for preventing desertification in the Sahel region and the development of renewable energy sources such as hydroelectric and solar power.

Cooperation between Asia and Africa, South-South Cooperation

In Asia, substantial results have been achieved through assistance from Japan and other donors, and this example of success can be applied in providing useful assistance to Africa. This Asia-Africa cooperation could be an effective means of furthering African development.

In Sri Lanka, "clean hospitals" emerged through Japanese assistance by applying to hospital management a quality control method used in Japan called the "5S" approach: Seiri (organization); Seiton (order); Seiketsu (hygiene); Seiso (cleaning); and Shitsuke (discipline). This experience in Sri Lanka has been applied in various hospitals in African countries. Other examples of Asia-Africa cooperation assisted by JICA include agricultural assistance to Madagascar by Indonesia, which has achieved a green revolution, and assistance to Zambia by Malaysia, which has achieved remarkable economic development through investment promotion.

In addition, JICA promotes development through Africa-Africa cooperation, by helping Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt to serve as host countries for other African countries in fields including healthcare, infectious disease control, agriculture, and fisheries. Many similar efforts have taken place within Africa, such as those between South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the form of seminars on improving police functions and democratizing the police, and between Uganda and Sudan in developing plans for basic skills development and job training.

Front Line

Madagascar

Maternal Health Services Improvement Project

Development of Healthcare Professionals Who Can Assist Pregnancy, Childbirth and Child Development

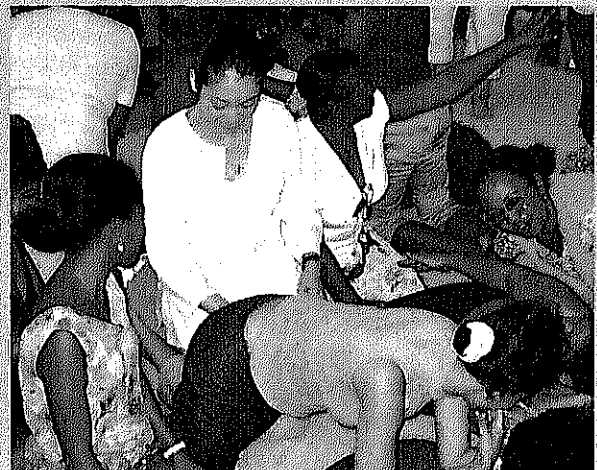
Approximately one woman in 40 dies of illness brought on by pregnancy or childbirth in Madagascar. At the same time, eight out of every 100 children born never reach their first birthday. To provide adequate healthcare that saves lives and to encourage more access, JICA has been implementing a maternal health services improvement project in Madagascar since January 2007.

In this project, Japanese and Malagasy staff members cooperate in considering and putting into practice what is needed for mothers to give birth safely and to raise children in good health. Medical technique alone is not sufficient; the healthcare workers' attitude toward the mother, the child and the family as a whole is also extremely important. Safe and comforting healthcare services backed by adequate medical technology ensure the health of mother and child.

Healthcare workers who acquire the ability to provide user-friendly services are getting more satisfied with their work. With more confidence in their own technical skills, they learn to provide reliable and appropriate services.

This project is also targeting childbirth at home, which is common in developing countries. It seeks to develop medical human resources who can assist pregnancy, childbirth and child development.

(Madagascar JICA Office)



Birth attendants in Boeny Region participating in childbirth assistance training. Together they consider what constitutes safe and comforting assistance.

Central America and the Caribbean

Pillars of Aid Poverty Reduction/Sustainable Economic Growth/Measures to Address Issues on a Regional Scale

Poverty reduction is the utmost priority issue common to most countries in Central America and the Caribbean in their development policies. Poverty reduction plays an important role in removing destabilizing factors, represented by the internal conflicts that Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador have experienced, and promoting peace building in the region. Additionally, in order to resolve 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 borders.

To help Central America and the Caribbean deal with these conditions, JICA actively supports self-help efforts of individual countries from the viewpoint of capacity building. JICA considers it essential also to extend cooperation from the perspective of human security focused on individuals in addition to a national- and regional-level perspective. To that end, it pays due consideration to the socially vulnerable such as women, children, and poverty-stricken indigenous peoples.

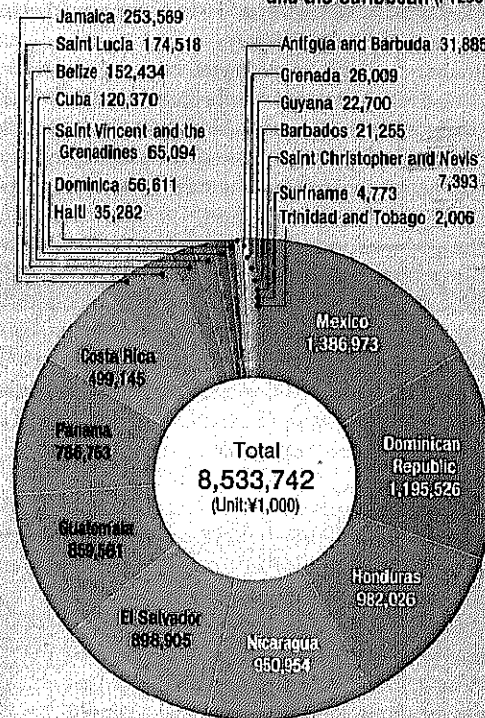
In order to address priority issues in development policy, JICA prioritizes cooperation in the areas given below and contributes to nation-building and human resources development in recipient countries.

As a method of cooperation, given that the region consists of adjoining small countries with common characteristics, region-wide cooperation targeting a set of countries is promoted to address similar development issues. JICA also supports South-South cooperation, in which countries in the same region provide cooperation to one another, and collaborates with organizations related to regional integration such as the System of Central American Integration (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and gives consideration to coordination with international organizations such as Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other donor countries.

Priority areas:

- (1) Education
- (2) Health and sanitation
- (3) Agricultural and rural development
- (4) Industrial development and development of socioeconomic infrastructures
- (5) Environmental conservation
- (6) Disaster prevention
- (7) Public Safety

● Cooperation results by country in Central America and the Caribbean (FY2007)



* 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 17,637,605 thousand yen.

Current State of Development

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 (CARICOM). The region has many small countries with land areas of less than 10,000 km²

and populations of less than 1 million people. Many countries in the region are dependent on the production and export of primary products. Though tourism is good in some countries, the manufacturing sector has yet to be developed except for in Mexico and Costa Rica.

When looking at the situation of the whole region,

peacemaking proceeded in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala in the 1990s, and individual countries have worked on democratization and economic reforms, resulting in political and economic stability throughout the region, except for a few countries. 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 a result, poverty, security, and environmental issues are becoming more critical in many countries. Since the region consists of a number of small adjoining countries, these issues have crossed borders and influenced neighboring countries; therefore, the region needs proactive support from the international community to solve the problems.

Mexico, the country with the largest land area and population in the region, is a so-called more developed country, which has relatively advanced economic development, although it still grapples with poverty. It is also 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, the competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises must be strengthened and environmental issues have yet 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 peace building 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 for Dialogue and Cooperation was established between Japan and SICA member countries.

The 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 (Aichi, Japan), these five countries sponsored the Central America Joint Pavilion as SICA members together with two neighboring countries, Belize and Panama. This led Japan and eight countries including the Dominican Republic (associate SICA member) to designate the year 2005 as the Japan-Central America year. The Tokyo Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the Japan-Central America Summit in August 2005 call for a strengthening of ties and clarify the priority areas and the direction of future economic and technical cooperation. On the basis of these agreements, JICA actively provides assistance in fields including education, health, sanitation, and disaster prevention. At the 11th Japan-Central America Forum held in El Salvador in April 2008, it was confirmed that the cooperative relationship between Japan and SICA member countries was moving forward favorably.

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 the scale of their economies is small. Accordingly, Japan does not have a strong record of cooperation in these countries. In the Caribbean, which consists of similar small island 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 the Japan-Caribbean Community Consultation, JICA carries out region-wide cooperation in such areas as disaster prevention, conservation of marine resources and environmental conservation, and tourism development.

Priority Areas for Cooperation

The following describes cooperation extended by JICA to the Central American and Caribbean region for addressing the priority issues involved in development policy. It also explains the direction of future cooperation.

1. Education

Giving the highest priority to cooperation in basic education, JICA is working to improve the quality of elementary education through technical cooperation projects, dispatch of volunteers, and training courses.

The Project for the Improvement of Teaching Method in Mathematics (PROMETAM) implemented in Honduras is a typical example of cooperation, resulting in the development of teachers' manuals and children's workbooks. These and other results of bilateral cooperation are being extended to other countries in the region including El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic.

2. Health and Sanitation

In the health and sanitation field, priority is given to the maternal and child health and reproductive health area (aimed at the reduction of infant mortality and improvement of the health of pregnant women), infectious disease control targeting the poor, the improvement of regional healthcare including the training of nurses,

support for persons with disabilities, and safe drinking water supply. As in the case of education, many experts and volunteers play active roles in this area.

The Chagas Disease Control Project implemented in countries including Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Panama is a typical example. Chagas disease is a serious disease common among the poor in rural areas. Once it progresses to the chronic stage, there is no effective cure. JICA's support for persistent



Examination and training for pregnant women (Region-wide Technical Cooperation Project, "The Project for Strengthening Nursing Education and In-Service Training in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic")

efforts aimed at eradicating the disease, such as the extermination of the vector of the disease (kissing bugs), improvement of the housing environment to prevent entry of bugs, and educational campaign activities run by school and health volunteers, has proved effective.

3. Agriculture and Rural Development

The economies of many of the countries in this region depend on the production and export of primary commodities mainly from agriculture. However, many in the rural and fishing villages are poor. Therefore, JICA focuses primarily on poverty reduction through projects aimed at development and dissemination of production techniques for better livelihood and the promotion of rural development through community participation.

4. Industrial Development and Development of Socioeconomic Infrastructure

Medium- and long-term regional development requires socioeconomic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, schools and hospitals. Therefore, JICA actively provides technical cooperation in these areas, while organically collaborating with ongoing grant aid and loan assistance.

Recently, the countries in the region have been concluding free trade agreements (FTA) with the US, one after the other. Amid advancing economic globalization, JICA is assisting more in the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, promotion of trade and investment, tourism development, and other areas of the economy.

5. Environmental Conservation

In countries with growing economies, as population and industries concentrate in urban areas, waste disposal treatment and water contamination are becoming acute, requiring an urgent response. Also critical is the protection of the rich natural environment, which is a valuable tourism resource.

JICA is working proactively in these areas as well as in efforts to combat global environmental problems such as climate change.

6. Disaster Prevention

Hurricane Mitch, which struck Central America in 1998, caused serious damage to the region. Countermeasures against natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods caused by



Evacuation training (Region-wide Technical Cooperation Project, "Project on Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Management in Central America (BOSAI)")

torrential rain, are important issues for all the countries in the region.

JICA extends cooperation to promote disaster prevention at the administrative and community level in this region by utilizing Japan's experiences with natural disaster control. JICA cooperates with organizations such as the Center for Coordination for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (secretariat in Guatemala), which is affiliated with SICA, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (in Barbados), which is affiliated with CARICOM, and Mexico's National Center for Disaster Prevention. In the future, these organizations are expected to become the bases for region-wide disaster prevention activities.

7. Public Safety

The improvement of public safety is an issue shared by the countries in the region in terms of fostering stable and healthy economies and societies within the region.

JICA has cooperated 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). In addition, JICA has conducted a training course intended for police personnel in the region to introduce the Japanese police system.

Front Line

Honduras

An Entertaining Approach to Learning about the Prevention of Chagas Disease

Chagas Disease Awareness Introduced through Drama by JOCV

Chagas disease infects many of the poor in Latin America. The vector of this disease is the kissing bug, which lives in thatched roofs and mud walls. Chagas disease has a long incubation period of dozens of years, and causes heart disease and other illness.

For several years, JICA has provided assistance in Central America aimed at eradicating this disease. In Honduras, the Chagas Disease Control Project has operated since 2003. There, JICA has been distributing insecticides and helping residents monitor re-infestation of the vector on a community-level basis.

These efforts have succeeded in substantially reducing the rate of infection of Chagas disease in the province targeted by the project. In order to sustain these results, however, residents must correctly understand what is necessary to prevent the disease and take action themselves. To this end, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) collaborating on this project have produced a drama for Chagas disease education since April 2007. Since the habitat of most kissing bugs is poor regions with no electricity or water and few places for recreation, JOCV

members came up with the idea of informing residents about the disease in an entertaining format.

The publicity, script, performance, and supplementary explanations have become easier to understand and more enjoyable with each performance. Questionnaire surveys given to visitors and residents at the conclusion of the drama indicated that their understanding of the kissing bug improved. The submission of kissing bugs by residents to the health center has also increased.

(Honduras JICA Office)



Children listening attentively to the Chagas disease educational drama

South America

South America

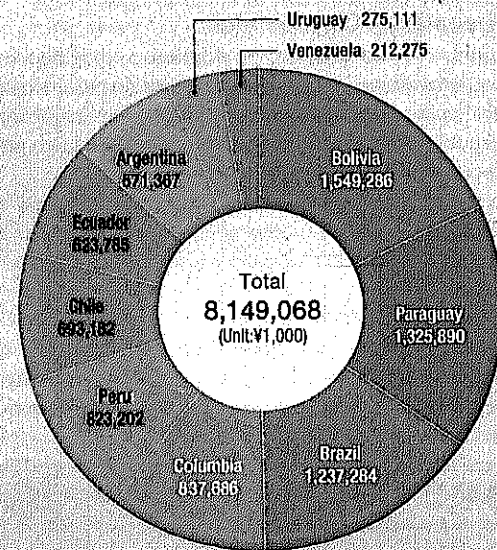
Pillars of Aid Emphasis on Disparity Reduction in the Region and Addressing Global Issues

As a result of economic reform measures such as privatization and deregulation since the 1990s, many South American countries have achieved steady economic growth. These countries also share similar histories, cultures and languages, and move toward regional cooperation and economic integration and toward the formation of free trade agreements and economic partnership agreements with countries outside of the region have strengthened. What is more, economic exchanges with Japan are increasing. However, the region includes both countries which have achieved relatively strong economies and those which have not, which means that disparities exist in the region. Moreover, while the region consists of economies of both relatively higher levels and lower levels, even those middle-income nations grapple with poverty in some local segments. Despite steady economic growth, the population of the poor is expanding, thereby widening the gap between the rich and poor. The dissatisfaction of citizens relating to these poverty issues has led in recent years to the rise of more socialistic national governments and has prompted reassessments of existing economic policies. Poverty is destabilizing political and economic conditions and is a factor causing social problems such as declining public order as well as environmental problems.

The South American region is sizeable in terms of natural and mineral resources, food supply capacity, and economic scale, and if political and economic conditions in the region become disarrayed and environmental degradation continues, there is likely to be an impact on the world economy and the global environment. With growing concern about the effects of global climate change, it is particularly important to address climate change in South America, a region which contains the Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest, and which represents one of the world's most important food supply regions. For these reasons, JICA is placing emphasis on the following measures in South America:

- (1) Addressing global issues
- (2) Poverty reduction and disparity reduction
- (3) Collaboration between governments and the private sector
- (4) Promotion of partnerships and South-South cooperation
- (5) Collaboration with communities of Japanese descendants (Nikkei)

● Cooperation results by country in to South America (FY2007)



* 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 17,637,605 thousand yen.

Current State of Development

As a result of the historical impact of colonial rule by Western European countries, major social disparities still exist in South America today. In the 1980s, many countries in the region failed to implement sound economic management, and were left with high rates of inflation and massive debts that ushered in a period now termed "the lost decade." In the 1990s, however, economic reforms were introduced based on neo-liberal policies spurred by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, leading to privatization and deregulation. As a result, the entire South American region achieved virtually stable economic

growth and many countries in the region are advancing to the status of medium-income economies.

On the other hand, economic growth has led to social instability, including widening disparities and an increase in the population of the poor within countries. In recent years, government administrations whose main political support comes from the poor have come into being in a number of countries and are reevaluating neo-liberal policies. Disparity correction both among and within countries has become a key issue relating to regional stability.

The economies of South America depend heavily on the production and export of primary commodities and have been significantly influenced by the world economy and market trends. Achieving sustainable economic growth requires assistance for industrial development, trade promotion, and the development of an environment conducive to investment. Also essential are improvements in governance and community capacity building to serve as a foundation for promoting economic activity by the private sector.

Recent years have seen a rise in concerns about global climate change, and the countries of the world are required to take steps in response. South America contains the Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest, and also has high food production potential. It is therefore a region that must be taken into account when considering measures against global climate change. Furthermore, economic growth in the region has been

accompanied by serious problems in urban environments, and this is an issue that also requires urgent attention.

The Presence of Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants

Cooperation toward South America cannot be considered without taking into account the presence of Japanese emigrants and the Nikkei community. The year 2008 marked the 100th year of Japanese emigration to Brazil, and this Japan-Brazil Year of Exchange signified the ties that have been built between the two countries over the course of a century and affirmed that this partnership would be strengthened in the future. Japanese immigrants and their descendants have established a firm position as members of the local community not only in Brazil but in other countries that have histories of Japanese immigration.

Addressing Priority Issues in JICA Programs

Although South America has proceeded further toward the status of a middle-income economy than other regions, it still includes countries with comparatively high levels of poverty such as Bolivia and Paraguay. JICA is giving priority to cooperation aimed at addressing poverty and disparity reduction in those countries where severe poverty is prevalent. In middle-income economies, however, JICA places emphasis on cooperation that contributes to measures to address global issues and to further development through government-private sector collaboration as appropriate for the country's income level.

Addressing Global Issues

Global issues such as climate change have the potential to cause major impacts, and measures in response are necessary for the entire South American region. Many countries are formulating cooperation programs and implementing projects to respond to global issues.

In the Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest, the forest continues to disappear due to illegal logging. This is raising concerns regarding climate change and the effect on ecological systems. As a result, conserving the Amazon rainforest has become a global issue. JICA, in response, is giving priority to cooperation aimed at protecting the Amazon. Through the Project for Utilization of ALOS Images to Protect Brazilian Amazon and Combat against Environmental Crimes, JICA provides cooperation for monitoring illegal logging and strengthening controls using satellite images taken by the Japanese satellite DAICHI. This cooperation makes use of Japanese technology which enables image analysis even when skies are overcast.

Another project being implemented in Brazil, the Project for Sustainable Use of Forest Resources in the Estuary Tidal Flood Plain in Amapa is aimed at providing sustainable forest management and effective utilization of forest products. In "The International Training Course for Agroforestry Technology System" of Third-country Training Course Program (TCTP), trainees from five countries in the Amazon region study how to increase income for small farmers and to recover the degraded tropical forests through multiple cultivation skill planting timber trees, fruit trees and field crops. The accumulated and rich experiences of Japanese immigrants in the region are also fully used.

The Project of Enhancement for Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change implemented in Argentina is aimed at improving the ability to predict future climate change using advanced analysis techniques made possible by a Japanese-developed Earth simulator. This cooperation also uses the technology and

personnel of Argentina, as a middle-income economy.

JICA is also assisting efforts aimed at the use of CDM (clean development mechanism) in South America through projects including the Study for Capacity Development and Promotion of AR-CDM in Chile, the Project of Enhancement for Application of Afforestation and Reforestation of CDM in Argentina, and the Project of Capacity Building for Development of New CDM Projects in Peru.

Poverty Reduction and Disparity Reduction

Poverty reduction measures and disparity reduction are issues common to all countries in South America and their respective governments have given priority to these issues in policy formulation.

JICA is extending cooperation aimed at poverty reduction in lower-income countries in South America such as Bolivia and Paraguay. In Bolivia, JICA is implementing poverty reduction measures to assist small farmers through projects including the Project for Rural Development in Altiplano Central and the Project of Establishment of Implementation System of Sustainable Rural Development, Phase 2. JICA is also providing assistance in social development for the purpose of poverty reduction through projects including the Drinking Water Supply in Impoverished Regions Program, the Education Quality Improvement Program, and the Program for Strengthening Local Health Care Networks Focused on Maternal and Child Health.

Rising out of poverty requires improvements in governments' ability to govern as well as assistance in individual areas. In Paraguay, JICA identifies governance as a priority issue and therefore works to strengthen governance through implementation of projects including the Project for Capacity Development Support of Local Government based on the Government Administration Function Improvement Program.

JICA is also implementing the Project for Capacity Development for Promoting the Sustainable Integral Rural Development for Poverty Reduction in Chimborazo Province in Ecuador and the Program of Rural Development for Poor Peasants and Local Capacity Strengthening in Central Highlands of Peru, providing cross-sectoral assistance to the poor, especially indigenous peoples.

Meanwhile, upper middle-income economies, JICA intends to support measures aimed at disparity correction mainly through self-help efforts, and expects to utilize loan assistance.

Collaboration between Governments and the Private Sector

In countries progressing into middle-income economies, assistance from the government and foreign countries has a comparatively small impact on their economies, which means that the economic activities of the private sector serve as the principal driver of development. As one method of cooperation provided to these countries, JICA will consider helping these countries promote trade and investment and technological development by utilizing the technology and experience of Japanese private companies, universities, and research institutes. Cooperation through government-private sector collaboration not only contributes to a country's development, but also strengthens its ties with Japan.

Promoting Partnerships and South-South Cooperation

Japan has concluded separate partnership programs with Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. As partners for development, Japan and these countries are jointly providing assistance programs tailored to the needs of other developing countries.

Under a partnership program with Brazil, Nikkei (Japanese descendant) experts were dispatched to Angola in 2007 to support the Training for Capacity Building of Josina Machel Hospital implemented in the African country. JICA intends to extend cooperation to many regions in addition to South America through partnership programs.

Since South America is a region in which a common language is widespread, JICA intends to support mutual use of the excellent technology and extensive experience not only of the three countries mentioned above but also of other South American countries through South-South cooperation.

Collaboration with the Nikkei (Japanese descendant) Communities

The history of extensive Japanese immigration is a prominent feature of South America. Nikkei, or people of Japanese ancestry, are active in many fields and contribute significantly to regional development and the fostering of friendship and relationships of trust with Japan. JICA identifies the Nikkei communities as its partners for development and pursues collaboration with them. Nikkei lend their abilities to JICA projects implemented in other countries as international cooperation personnel, and JICA intends to apply the experience of the Nikkei communities toward promoting the development of these countries.



The efforts of Nikkei are utilized in agroforestry courses. The photo shows mixed cultivation of bananas and palm trees.

Front Line

Bolivia

Project for Implementation of the Unified Registration of the Handicapped Person in La Paz

Ascertaining the circumstances of persons with disabilities and removing social prejudice

In January 2006, the administration of Evo Morales, the first indigenous person to be elected president of Bolivia, was inaugurated. Under a policy that assigned first priority to consideration of peoples who are often excluded from society, a national plan for realizing equal opportunity for persons with disabilities was established.

Before specific policies were enacted, however, unrest broke out among groups of persons with disabilities who demanded payment of benefits. As a result, a government assistance committee to consider aid to persons with disabilities was immediately set up.

However, there was another barrier to be overcome: the question of how persons with disabilities should be defined. In Bolivia, there was no registration system for persons with disabilities, and thus it was not known who was eligible to receive administrative services.

In response, JICA has engaged in various activities to address this issue such as implementing the Project for Implementation of the Unified Registration of the Handicapped Person in La Paz in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports. The aim of this project is to establish a registration system for ascertaining the circumstances of persons with disabilities, understanding their disabilities from medical, psychological and social viewpoints, and then issuing cards for persons with disabilities. In one instance following establishment of the system, a person with disabilities became emotional upon receiving the card, declaring that the existence of persons with disabilities had finally been officially

recognized.

What must precede this system is the elimination of social prejudice and discrimination and the provision by the government of appropriate services, including education, healthcare, and welfare. Ideally, persons with disabilities who receive these services will be able to live as full members of society.

At the present time, JICA is also working to extend the registration system nationwide and is providing assistance for the rehabilitation and education of persons with disabilities with a view to promoting their independence.

(Bolivia JICA Office)



The first Persons with Disabilities Card is presented by the Minister of Health and Sports, a moment which represented the first official recognition of persons with disabilities. The Minister commented that the issue would not end at this point and that the government would have to accomplish many tasks (such as deciding how to provide administrative services to persons with disabilities from the standpoint of health and medical treatment).