

The Middle East



Middle East Peacebuilding Is Key to Global Economic Development

Some 60% of global oil reserves and 40% of global natural gas reserves are located in the Middle East. For its part, Japan depends on imports from the Middle East for nearly 90% of its domestic oil consumption. Thus, stability in the region is a major determining factor of the natural resource and energy policy of Japan, as well as a critical factor for not only the economic development of the international community, but also for international peacebuilding.

Pillars of Aid

Collaboration with the International Community in Supporting Peacebuilding based on the Six Pillars

The Middle East has long been known as the “crossroads of civilization,” having developed from ancient times as a strategic stop connecting the East and West. The Middle East is also known historically for its four different Arab-Israeli conflicts as well as ongoing struggles along both ethnic and religious lines. The end of conflict and peacebuilding in the Middle East as well as the stable procurement of natural resources from the region are issues of critical importance not only for Japan, but also for the entire world both politically and economically.

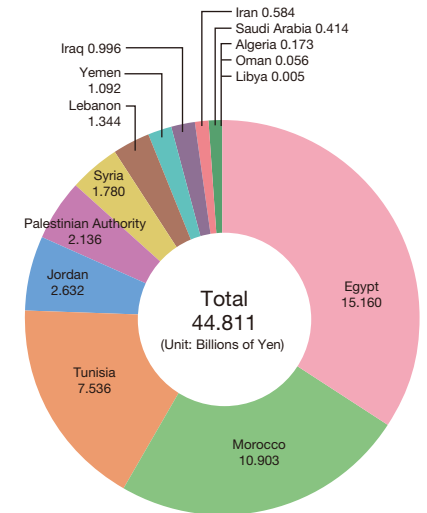
Taking this into consideration, Japan has strived to maintain a neutral stance toward the Middle East, having secured the trust of both parties. While collaborating with the international community, Japan has led a series of initiatives aimed at peacebuilding in the region under the following six pillars: 1) support for peacebuild-

ing in Iraq and the Palestinian Authority’s Territories; 2) support for the ongoing peace process in the Middle East via assistance provided to the Palestinian Authority and other surrounding Arab nations; 3) support for democratization in the region; 4) development of socioeconomic infrastructure and support for poverty countermeasures for low and middle income countries; 5) support for water resource management; and 6) support for human resources development tailored to the unique local needs of each country.

Although improvements were seen in security in Iraq in fiscal 2008, this same period also saw Israel’s attack on the Gaza Strip, as instability continued in the region. In light of this, Japan has embarked on a variety of assistance initiatives in the Middle East.

Scale of JICA Projects by Country in the Middle East (Fiscal 2008)

Composition of JICA projects for each country based on total Technical Cooperation project expenses, ODA loans (total) and Grant Aid (concluded Grant Aid including activities expedited).



* Excluding Technical Cooperation with multiple countries and international organizations.

Priority Issues and Efforts

Assistance Tailored to the Needs of Oil-Producing or Non-Oil-Producing Nations

As represented by the Palestinian issue, the Middle East is a region of constant conflict along the lines of ethnic tension, religious belief, and political power, as well as a region of great influence worldwide both politically and economically. The Middle East is also a region with two faces, high-income,

developed oil-producing nations and low-income non-oil-producing nations in varying stages of development, and a region where each country is home to a complex and diverse society made up of different ethnic groups and cultures. Accordingly, assistance programs must be precisely sculpted to meet unique local conditions.

As a result, JICA considers peacebuilding and reconstruction assistance

in Iraq and the Palestinian Authority’s Territories as keys to future stability in the Middle East, and as such has made these an issue of the utmost priority. Furthermore, water resource management, industrial development, technician training and environmental protection are all shared needs in the region. Accordingly, JICA is implementing programs, including volunteer programs, in line with local requirements.

Country Overviews and Priority Issues

■ Iraq

Aiming for the Integration of Differing Ethnic Groups and Religions

Since 1980, Iraq has suffered repeatedly from warfare and terrorism as evidenced by the Iran-Iraq War, Persian Gulf War and War in Iraq, which has led to the destruction of much of the country's socioeconomic infrastructure. While boasting the third largest crude oil reserves in the world, Iraq depends on the oil trade for a staggering 90% of its national income. As a result, oil price volatility has long-lasting effects on the country's finances.

Under these circumstances, JICA has used a comprehensive three-pronged approach to assistance in Iraq that provides Technical Cooperation,

loan aid and Grant Aid in the areas of 1) strengthening the oil, gas, agriculture, manufacturing and mining sectors for economic growth; 2) revitalizing the private sector through reconstruction of the power grid and development of a foundation for transport and communication; 3) improving the quality of life through construction of waterworks and sewer systems and increasing the quality of health care and education; and 4) strengthening governance practices to build a foundation for administration and expanding human resources.

As an example from fiscal 2008, Japan provided an ODA loan to the Water Supply Improvement Project in the Kurdistan region. The purpose of this project was the construction of new

facilities to replace deteriorating waterworks infrastructure in the Kurdistan region and the improvement of water supply conditions. As another example, and as a part of its training programs, JICA hosted the 3rd Seminar for Knowledge and Experience Sharing on Japan in March 2009, inviting Iraqi national diet members from different political parties and religious sects, such as Shia Islam, Sunni Islam and Kurdistan in the hopes of promoting greater stability and a collective approach to reconstruction in Iraq. The program agenda included lectures and seminars held in Tokyo, visits to Hiroshima and Kobe, as well as discussions on how Japan succeeded in its reconstruction after World War II and how it copes with natural disasters.

Example

Palestinian Authority Project for Improving Reproductive Health with Special Focus on Maternal and Child Health Project in Palestine

The Maternal and Child Health (MHC) Handbook – Connecting the Bonds of Life

Currently, the Palestinian Territories, under occupation by Israel, are confronted by an economic blockade, a three-meter tall "separation wall", expansion of Israeli settlements, road closures and checkpoints as well as daily curfews, which have greatly restricted economic activity and mobility, forcing local residents into a difficult lifestyle. In particular, the "separation wall," constructed unilaterally by Israel cuts deep into the area, with residents unable to move freely even within the Palestinian Territories. With little or no exception, movements are extremely restricted. Dotted by a number of security checkpoints set up within the area, there have even been cases where a pregnant woman has gone into labor while waiting in line to pass the checkpoints. The frequent closure of these checkpoints has also become a critical issue facing pregnant women as well as child rearing in the Palestinian Territories.

Jericho Hospital, which was built with Japanese assistance in the Jericho Governorate in the West Bank, receives some 80% of all childbirths in the Governorate. Checkpoint closures, however, often mean that it may take several hours or upwards of an entire day to reach Jericho, and with

the construction of the "separation wall," mothers and their children often cannot reach their clinic. Furthermore, even if they are able to travel to a different clinic, because of a lack of medical records, mothers and their children are unable to receive suitable medical care services.

To address this, JICA designated parts of the Jericho Governorate and Ramallah (and Al-Bireh) Governorate as a pilot region, starting the Improving Reproductive Health with Special Focus on Maternal and Child Health Project in Palestine from August 2005. As a part of this project, the distribution of the "Maternal and Child Health (MHC) Handbook," which keeps records of important medical information for expectant mothers and infants, greatly contributed to the improvement of maternal and child health care services in these areas. The MHC Handbook is quite simply a healthcare passport for mothers and their children. With the handbook, medical records are consolidated in one document, detailing exams received at different medical organizations within the area, which allows for improved diagnosis and treatment because health care workers are able to quickly grasp changes in health and exam histories. Additionally, maternal and child health care services provided throughout the Palestinian Territories have become more standardized, regardless of medical organization. Today, with only the handbook in hand, mothers and their children can go to any medical organization, including those affiliated with large NGO groups or the Ministry of Health to receive an exam or treatment. In January 2008, JICA reached an important milestone with the printing of 120,000 copies of the

nationwide version of the MHC handbook, or enough to cover the total number of births in the Palestinian Territories.

The success of the project led the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to request the implementation of a similar service, and shortly thereafter JICA launched the MHC Handbook service in a UNRWA refugee camp in Jordan. Furthermore, JICA began Phase 2 of the project, which will last for four years starting in November 2008. While many challenges still remain, such as the wider use of the handbook, the continued development of health care workers, the expansion of health education, financial independence, collaborative links with private sector medical organizations and the implementation of the project in the isolated Gaza Strip, everyone involved believes with great conviction in the success of the project.



Waiting room at a refugee camp Maternal and Child Health Center

In fiscal 2008, with conditions in Iraq showing signs of improved stability in public security and local government, JICA decided to begin preparations for the establishment of an overseas office in Iraq, dispatching Japanese staff to Arbil in the Kurdistan region from March 2008. Going forward, JICA will make further efforts in the reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure, while maintaining close dialogue with the country.

■ Palestinian Authority
Economic Independence as a
Shortcut to Peace

The ministerial level meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee Meeting on Assistance for Palestinians was held in New York City in September 2008. The meeting reaffirmed the ongoing peace efforts from the Annapolis Middle East peace conference held the previous year and re-acknowledged the need for assistance programs directed toward the Palestinian Authority. Starting in fiscal 2005, JICA, through Technical Cooperation projects in the fields of local autonomous authorities, maternal and

child health, and waste management, has assisted with raising the standard of services provided by the Palestinian Authority and improving living environments primarily in the Jericho area.

The Corridor for Peace and Prosperity concept is based on the idea that it is important to promote confidence-building between Israel and Arab countries for peace in the region, and that it is indispensable to promote sustainable economic development through inter-regional collaboration. As a result, JICA is providing Technical Cooperation for the purpose of improving agricultural technologies and is conducting surveys

Example

Egypt
Egypt-Japan University of Science and
Technology (E-JUST)

Nurturing Practical-Minded Experts in
Science and Technology:
Egypt-Japan University of Science and
Technology "E-JUST"

University education in Egypt now faces two major challenges: a growing number of students and declining education quality. Even Cairo University, the country's most prestigious institution, faces challenges in ensuring its educational quality. For example, with over 260,000 students in the university, the faculty-to-student ratio in the engineering department is about 1:30. It has been gradually pointed out that the quality of education provided by Egyptian universities and the environment for education have worsened as the number of students grows.

Furthermore, it is not unusual for those who are in the disciplines of science and technology, having completed university in Egypt, to pursue postgraduate studies or opportunities in research organizations overseas. Students tend to remain abroad for employment, advanced education and

research resources, which leads to the ongoing decline in highly trained professionals with technical knowledge and expertise in the country.

To improve its current science and technology education, in 2004 the government of Egypt turned to Japan for assistance centering on the concept of meeting the international standard for research and education. Through a series of surveys and discussions, the government of Egypt has demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm in realizing the university concept through joint effort. After confirming the feasibility of this concept, JICA launched its project for establishing a university to be named Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) in October 2008. The concept of this university is to provide practical and international standard education through small-sized classes in undergraduate and post-graduate education and research by introducing the Japanese science and engineering education model, including research-oriented education. E-JUST is a national university and will begin an inaugural class of master's and doctorate students in February 2010.

To establish E-JUST, 12 universities in Japan have come together to form the Japanese Supporting University Consortium (JSUC), together with the Japanese business community and



Planned construction site of the new campus

relevant ministries, which provide comprehensive support including a grand design for the university as well as assistance in the organizational operation of education and research activities. E-JUST not only adopts the research-oriented education model, but also provides multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral study programs to foster practical and creative skills in students. An emphasis has been placed on postgraduate education, with the plan of receiving international students from Africa and the Middle East, as well as starting exchange programs with Japanese universities in the future.

Counterpart's Voice

"We Spare No Efforts in Our Collaboration with Japan"

Outlined below are the key E-JUST mission objectives for Egypt, other neighboring Arab countries and African countries:

- 1) To develop human resources with the goal of creating employment, as well as improving skills, knowledge and proficiency
- 2) With an emphasis placed on small and medium-sized businesses and the service sector, increase awareness of, and encourage participation in scientific research and creation of intellectual products
- 3) To strengthen Arab and African countries by enhancing Egypt-Japan education and culture exchange

E-JUST will strive to cooperate with our Japanese partners in reaching the goal for E-JUST to become the center of excellence (COE) in the region.



Professor Ahmed Khairy
Chairman of the Project Executive Committee
Acting President of E-JUST

for the construction of an Agro-Industrial Park and for comprehensive water management in the Jordan Valley. The objective of these assistance programs is to develop agriculture and related industries as key basic industries of the local economy in the Jordan Valley including Jericho. The programs are implemented under an approach that increases project effectiveness and creates organic collaboration with support in the fields of governance, agriculture and tourism.

Beginning in fiscal 2008, JICA has been implementing the project for (sustainable) tourism development in Jericho and through to the Jordan River Rift Valley (see page 118). This project was established based on the previously conducted Comprehensive Development Study on Jericho and the Jordan Valley. JICA is implementing the project alongside the local Ministry for Tourism and Historical Sites and local NGOs.

Additionally, in the Gaza Strip, JICA focuses on follow-up activities such as support for the activities of the JICA Alumni Association. This is because the situation with regard to security and political instability does not allow for the dispatching of Japanese experts there.

Example

Tunisia Rades-La Goulette Bridge Construction Project

The Rades-La Goulette Bridge Pictured in Stamps

The Greater Tunis area surrounding Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, is home to 2.3 million people, or over one-fifth of Tunisia's entire population. While this region is the center of Tunisia's economic activity, it is divided into north and south by the canal in the Lake of Tunis. The only means of transportation that connect the north and south are the busy streets through the city of Tunis or the car ferry traveling between the ports of Rades and La Goulette. However, as the ferry has limited sailing times and vehicle capacity, most cars still choose the busy driving route through the city center of Tunis, creating traffic congestion and causing environmental damage.

Taking into consideration the future increase in economic activity and tourism demand growth in the area, as well as a foreseeable increase in traffic volume through the business center of the Grand Tunis area as a result of development projects around the Lake of Tunis, solutions for both the traffic and environmental issues are very much desired in the city. JICA began its research because of these conditions, and provided ODA loans to fund the Rades-La Goulette Bridge Construction Project, which was designed based on a research master plan with the goal of alleviating traffic congestion and improving the surrounding environment. This construction project



The Rades-La Goulette Bridge

also represents the first large-scale infrastructure development project seen in Tunisia. Combining advanced Japanese technical skills, the bridge totaling 260m in length with two lanes in either direction was completed in fiscal 2008. The bridge not only connects La Goulette in the north and Rades in the south but also forms an important link in the beltway connecting the southeast and northwest parts of the capital.

As the ports of Rades and La Goulette are now connected by a bridge, Tunis can expect to see an acceleration in port development projects as well as further promotion of economic development on both the north and south shores of the lake. This project targets the alleviation of traffic

congestion in the city center by 30%, which in turn is expected to reduce air pollutants such as sulfur oxides (SO_x) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) associated with vehicle emissions, thereby improving the urban environment.

The year 2006 marks the 50th anniversary of Japan-Tunisia diplomatic relations. To commemorate this milestone, the completion drawing of the Rades-La Goulette Bridge was printed on a commemorative stamp in Tunisia. This clearly demonstrates Tunisia's positive view of the foreign assistance provided by Japan.

Local Voices "It's Wonderful as Both My Commute Time and Stress Levels Have Been Greatly Reduced."

- "I live 10km south of the Tunis city center, and every morning I had to take the ferry (El Battah) to get to work in northern Tunis (La Goulette), which is on the other side of the shore. It usually took a while for me to disembark the ferry, as it was always crowded with passengers and cars. After the Rades-La Goulette Bridge was built, my commute time and associated stress was greatly reduced, so I am very happy with the bridge."
- "The Rades-La Goulette Bridge is very wide and beautiful. People who cross the lake usually stop their cars in the middle of the bridge to take in the scenic view of Tunis Lake from atop the bridge."
- "After I started using the Rades-La Goulette Bridge, traveling to the suburban areas of Tunis became easy and convenient."

Africa



Accelerating Self-Reliance Support Projects to Bring Change and Growth to Africa

The year 2008 witnessed the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, which were held in May and July, respectively. These events placed African development issues in the limelight. Accordingly, the year saw a number of global discussions take place regarding a lot of measures aimed at eradicating poverty and assisting economic growth in the region. Africa is still beset with a large number of issues that need to be solved. Negatively affected by the ongoing global financial crisis, the economic conditions surrounding Africa are very severe. However, the region is undoubtedly making surefooted steps toward a bright future, as evidenced by the steady increase in African ownership. JICA will join forces with the international community to support the realization of a self-reliant Africa.

Pillars of Aid Following Up and Promoting the TICAD IV Yokohama Action Plan

From May 28 to May 30, 2008, the TICAD IV conference was held in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture. (For details, see “Feature: African Development” on page 18 of this report.) The Yokohama Action Plan, which was adopted at TICAD IV, prioritizes the finding of solutions to the following three issues through the expansion of the partnership between the international community and Africa.

1. Accelerate Growth in Africa

- Establishment of cross-border infrastructure, such as transportation and energy; expansion of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Project (for details of the OSBP Project, see “Example: The Project on Capacity Building for the Customs Administrations of the East African Region” on page 90 of this report.)
- Support for improving agricultural productivity with a focus on rice production, and increasing the supply of food through the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)

2. Establishing the Concept of Human Security

- Assistance to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (construction of primary schools, measures against infectious diseases, supply of safe water, etc.)
- Assistance for development and reconstruction projects that contribute to regional stability, sustainable peace and good governance

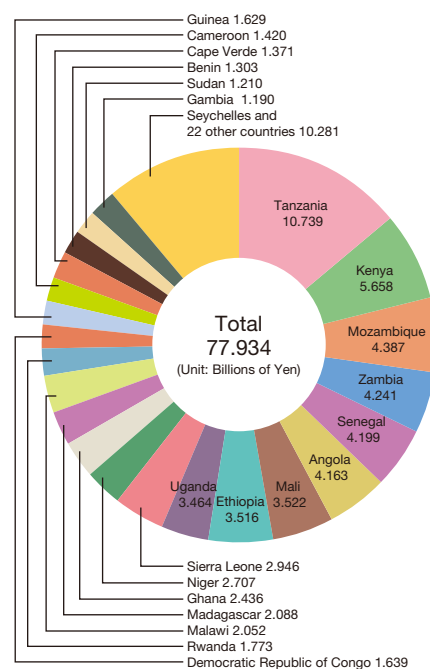
3. Dealing with Issues Associated with the Environment and Climate Changes

- Formation and implementation of projects in line with the Cool Earth Partnership
- While still facing such issues as poverty, low agricultural productivity and inadequate infrastructure, the African economy has achieved steady expansion in recent years, enjoying increased investment from other regions of the world following the conclusion of various regional conflicts, as well as surging prices for its resources, including oil and minerals. As a result, some countries on the African continent have achieved annual economic growth rates of more than 5%. However, Africa is gradually being impacted politically, economically and socially by the recent global financial and economic crisis, which could not be foreseen at the time of TICAD IV.

Under these circumstances, JICA established a TICAD IV Follow-up Office under its Africa Department in October 2008. This Office is in charge of checking the effectiveness of the assistance provided through TICAD IV and the commitment of donor nations as well as of formulating and coordinating JICA’s overall plans to follow up on TICAD IV initiatives. Through the launch of the new Office, JICA is now positioned to more accurately pinpoint and analyze the new assistance needs of each African nation in conjunction with its overseas offices. Leveraging such an effective

Scale of JICA Programs by Country (Fiscal 2008)

Breakdown of Fiscal 2008 JICA program expenses by country in Africa based on the total of Technical Cooperation expenses, Japanese ODA loans (amounts disbursed) and Grant Aid (the portion in connection with grant agreements signed, including the budgets used in activities expedited and monitored by JICA).



* Excluding amounts for cooperation provided to groups of countries and offered through international organizations.

framework, JICA will take steady steps toward the accomplishment of the Yokohama Action Plan.

Priority Issues and Efforts

Toward Fulfilling an International Commitment of Doubling African ODA by 2012

The Japanese government announced an international commitment of dou-

bling its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa by 2012, TICAD IV’s final year. In accordance with the commitment, and with due consideration given to all the Yokohama Action

Plan objectives adopted at TICAD IV, JICA is carrying out a comprehensive examination of overall assistance needs to implement focused allocation of assistance resources, thereby producing

tangible results by 2012.

Specific initiatives designed to assist with the acceleration of Africa's growth include: 1) the establishment of such basic infrastructure as transportation, telecommunication and energy systems; 2) the construction of trade and investment frameworks to drive growth; 3) the boosting of agriculture, a sector on which approximately 70% of

the entire African population depend; and 4) the development of human resources, particularly in the areas of science, mathematics and technical education, required for achieving and sustaining growth.

Also, empowering the people of Africa is indispensable in helping to keep the peace, sustaining growth and reducing poverty across the continent.

In line with this view, it becomes important to provide support based on the concept of human security, which emphasizes that the positive influences from assistance should be directly felt by individuals. Meanwhile, climate change is inevitably generating certain risks in terms of Africa's development. How to counter these risks is becoming another issue of significant importance.

Country Overviews and Priority Issues

■ Kenya

Supporting Economic Infrastructure and Agricultural Development

Fulfilling an important role as an East African hub, Kenya has been maintaining high economic growth since 2000. Nevertheless, the country's economic infrastructure, including electricity-related systems, roads, ports and harbors, has not been fully developed. In addition, the country's agricultural industry, which involves about 60% of the entire population, is highly susceptible to drought and other climatic conditions. Situations such as these will definitely need to be addressed if the food supply is to be stabilized and farmers' incomes increased. With the aim of promoting Kenya's economic

growth through infrastructure development, JICA is undertaking a program on power generation and transmission improvement. Also, in order to improve the quality of life of people living in Kenya's arid regions, JICA is implementing a Community Agricultural Development Project in Semi Arid Lands (CADSAL) while promoting a smallholder empowerment program for income generation to support horticulture and rice production. Through these and other activities, JICA is assisting with Kenya's agricultural development.

■ Tanzania

Focusing on Agricultural Development to Reduce Poverty

In Tanzania, the agricultural industry

accounts for approximately 45% of GDP and approximately 40% of the country's total exports. Also, about two-thirds of the domestic labor population is engaged in agriculture. Tanzania has positioned the development of its agricultural sector as an important initiative to accelerate poverty reduction and economic expansion. Accordingly, the Tanzanian government and donor countries have been jointly implementing a United Republic of Tanzania Agricultural Sector Development Programme since 2006. Currently, Japan and other donor countries are collaborating with the relevant government authorities in Tanzania to promote the development of the agricultural sector. These government authorities are 1) the

Example

Uganda

Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Programme

JICA Bridging Humanitarian Relief and Development Assistance, Helping the Region Recover from the Chaos of Civil Wars

Due to the country's prolonged civil wars, the establishment of social service frameworks and the development of infrastructure have been significantly delayed, particularly in Northern Uganda. At present, following the deportation of antigovernment forces, public security in the north is gradually improving. Consequently, the region's inhabitants are now endeavoring to return to normal lives. In line with the strengthening of their endeavors, the format of the assistance provided in Uganda is changing from humanitarian relief to development activities. Nevertheless, such assistance offered by various development assistance organizations is insufficient and has yet to satisfy the country's varied needs.

JICA has conducted studies in an effort to decide the direction of future assistance in Northern Uganda. These studies revealed that the internally displaced—believed to total approximately two million people—are rushing back to their home villages and that the living conditions in these villages are extremely poor. Particularly noteworthy is the dreadful state of road infrastructure, which not only interferes with ordinary social and economic activities in and around the region, but also hampers these people in their efforts to return home and settle down. Even after returning to their home villages, these people are unable to find acceptable jobs and housing. These conditions indicate that such bases of their daily lives as basic infrastructure, public utilities, social service systems and markets have yet to be established. In response to such conditions and in order to allow these people to

return to and settle down in their home villages with a sense of security, JICA is providing reconstruction assistance aimed at reinvigorating their communities and restoring the administrative functions of local government. Furthermore, JICA will support the development of equitable communities, in which an increasing number of North Ugandans will be able to enjoy the dividends of peace after the civil wars.



A truck overturned by extremely poor road conditions

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives; 2) the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries; 3) the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Marketing; 4) the Ministry of Water and Irrigation; and 5) the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government. In line with this program, JICA will continue to provide Tanzania with support focusing on: policy formulation and administration; water and irrigation development; human resources development; and rice production technique enhancement and dissemination.

■ Uganda Toward Advances in Economic Growth

In the past, a series of civil wars disrupted Uganda's economy. After these wars ended, the country energetically promoted structural adjustment policies to reduce the number of military personnel and government employees and to liberalize the overall agricultural product market. Through the implementation of these and other policies, Uganda recorded an average annual economic growth rate of approximately 6% in the 1990s. The country has maintained the same level of growth rate ever since, and the trends in its macro economy are showing ever greater stability. In recent years, the government of Uganda has been promoting additional economic growth through the improvement of the country's economic management capabilities, productivity and competitiveness as well as the people's income, in accordance with its belief that further economic growth is indispensable for

reducing poverty. The government is prioritizing the modernization of agriculture and the establishment of basic infrastructures. JICA is supporting Uganda through such Technical Cooperation projects as the Rice Promotion Project and the Project for Enhancing Electricity Supply.

■ Sudan Assisting with the Achievement of Sustainable Peace after Prolonged Internal Conflicts

Sudan is the largest country on the African continent, and a variety of ethnic groups inhabit the country, including Arabs in the north and Africans in the south. With many intricately interwoven problems—religious and ethnic differences, regional disparities, conflicts about oil resources and struggles for political power—Sudan had constantly experienced a number of internal wars even before the Second Sudanese Civil War, which came to a close with the signing of a peace agreement in 2005. However, a series of internal conflicts have completely suspended the provision of education, healthcare and other social services over a long period of time. Therefore, there are many regions where living standards are among the lowest in the world, and many Sudanese are still having difficulties in leading self-reliant lives. Hostilities are continuing in Darfur in particular, and the number of refugees and internally displaced people is persistently on the rise. In accordance with Japan's ODA Charter, which embraces the basic principle of peacebuilding, and from the perspective of human security, JICA is actively providing assistance to help

achieve sustainable peace in Sudan. Specifically, JICA prioritizes support in such areas as helping war-ravaged people and refugees, reestablishing social frameworks and providing aid for basic human needs (BHN).

■ Ethiopia Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Other Development Assistance

Boasting Africa's second largest population, which totals approximately 80 million, Ethiopia has formed an economy highly dependent on primary products. In fact, the agricultural industry in Ethiopia commands approximately 85% of all the employed, 40% of GNI and more than 90% of total exports. Thanks to improved agricultural productivity attributable to the relatively favorable climatic conditions of recent years and the increased use of fertilizers, Ethiopia has realized an annual economic growth rate of 10% or higher over the past four years. However, the country, which is still regarded as a symbol of poverty and hunger, is suffering from various problems from the human security perspective. Accordingly, the Ethiopian government is prioritizing the solving of food security issues and reducing poverty. In response, JICA is supporting the country in a number of areas, such as agricultural and rural development, which includes improving agricultural productivity, safe water accessibility, socioeconomic infrastructure development and education. In addition to these forms of ongoing support, JICA has begun assisting with the development of industries other than agriculture.

Example

Kenya Flood Disaster Management in the Nyando River Basin

Helping the Region Recover from the Damage Caused by Repeated Floods

The basin of the Nyando River, which runs through Western Kenya, is susceptible to constant flooding in the wet season. The flooding inflicts significant harm on the inhabitants and the economy of the area. The basin is recognized as an especially poor part of Kenya. In recent years, adversely affected by a decline in the price of sugar—the area's

flagship produce—and a decrease in rice production, the regional economy has continued to stagnate. Thus, the constant floods are forcing the people in the area to live in poverty.

In spite of this situation, Kenya does not have any governmental organizations specialized in flood management and, accordingly, has not been able to implement anti-flood measures. To help make a breakthrough, JICA is promoting a study on the integrated flood management for Nyando River Basin. Specific initiatives being taken as part of the study include: 1) the preparation of a master plan for integrated flood control in the Nyando River basin; 2) capacity building for personnel of executing organizations through

plan preparation processes; and 3) the promotion of anti-flood measures at the community level. Particularly for initiatives 2) and 3), JICA is providing support for structuring an organization called the Nyando River Forum, which comprises administrative and academic organizations, NGOs, private corporations and resident organizations. Kenya's Water Resources Management Agency highly values the effectiveness and importance of the Nyando River Forum. Building on this success, related parties are examining ways to enable the Water Resource Users' Association to continue to operate so that inhabitants in the Nyando River basin can autonomously instigate anti-flood measures.

■ Zambia

Delivering Support to People in Need

Despite being surrounded by no less than eight countries, Zambia has neither been involved in armed conflict with its neighbors nor even suffered a civil war since gaining its independence. Well supported by the production of copper—the country's mainstay export product—as well as by the tourism and construction industries, the country's economy has achieved steady growth. The benefits from such economic growth, however, have not been equally distributed among all the people of Zambia. This reality has manifested itself in the country's average life expectancy being less than 40 years and in more than 60% of the entire population living on less than one U.S. dollar a day. Moreover, HIV/AIDS prevalence among adults has reached 16.5%, and because of this and other reasons, the number of orphaned minors is believed to have exceeded 700,000. In response to such situations, JICA is advancing an HIV/AIDS/Tuberculosis (TB) Program and Self-Reliance Development Support for Rural Areas. Through these and other projects, JICA is extending assistance to those in need in Zambia.

■ Mozambique

Expanding the Scope of Assistance in Various Fields

In 1992, Mozambique welcomed the end of a civil war that had lasted over 17 years. In step with the progress and consolidation of peace, Mozambique achieved an annual economic growth rate of approximately 7% every year in the late 1990s. JICA opened its Mozambique Office in April 2003. The amount of cooperation that Japan has provided

to Mozambique has steadily grown since then. In 2008, JICA made progress with assistance projects with a particular focus on rural areas in such fields as education, healthcare services, agriculture, water resources, transportation infrastructure as well as information and telecommunication technologies. Looking ahead, JICA will continue to support Mozambique in achieving further economic growth and reducing poverty.

■ Madagascar

Supporting Increased Food Production and Traffic Infrastructure Development

The economy of Madagascar stagnated prior to the mid-1990s, due to political unrest and the introduction of socialist policies since the country gained its independence. In 1996, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank started extending structural adjustment facilities to the country. As a result of this financial support, Madagascar's macro economy stabilized to some extent. However, the internal conflicts that occurred during presidential elections exacerbated the social unrest, which consequently impacted the country economically. In 2002, Madagascar finally recorded negative economic growth of 12.7%. After this, the government of Madagascar formulated a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in 2003 and announced "Madagascar Naturally," a national development plan, in 2004. In 2006, the government consolidated all these long-term visions into its Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) to run from 2007 through 2012. With the aim of contributing to the realization of MAP goals, JICA is assisting the country in expanding food production and developing transportation and logistic infrastructure.

■ Angola

Helping Improve the Quality of Health and Medical Services through Human Resources Development

Following its independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola was plagued by civil war. The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)* and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)** signed a joint memorandum covering a cease-fire agreement, in effect ending the state of internal conflicts after 27 years. Thereafter, progress was gradually made with the disarmament and demobilization of anti-government forces, facilitating national reconciliation and reconstruction. Nevertheless, years of internal conflicts and negligence have caused the medical facilities and equipment to age and have reduced the country's medical workforce. Due to these conditions, Angola is currently in the position of being unable to provide sufficient health and medical care services. The Angolan government has formulated a Five-Year Healthcare Development Plan (2005–2009). Under this plan, the government emphasizes the development of human resources and facilities required for healthcare and medical services. In line with the government's efforts, JICA is contributing to the enhancement of health and medical services in Angola through the promotion of programs aimed at developing human resources in relevant fields.

* MPLA: Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola

** UNITA: União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola. The major anti-government force in Angola at that time.

Example

Kenya

The Sondu/Miriu Hydropower Plant Construction

Kenya is suffering from a serious shortage of electricity. As the Kenyan people continue to experience frequent blackouts and many plants are forced to close down, electricity shortages continue to hamper the country's economic growth. The plan to construct the Sondu/Miriu hydropower plant on the Sondu River—a major river in

Kenya—was first proposed through a master plan study for the Sondu River Multipurpose Project. After the proposal was made, JICA assisted with the construction by extending loans totaling ¥18.1 billion. After the project started, an NGO that was concerned about the impact of the project on the environment demanded that it be halted. However, the Kenyan government and Kenya Electricity Generating Company Limited jointly promoted the establishment of a Technical Committee, with the participation of resident representatives, NGOs, local administrative officials and experts. This committee worked to build

consensus among the parties concerned and in so doing acted as a prime mover in promoting the project. The new hydropower plant, which commenced long-awaited operations in 2008 and currently generates 5% of the country's total generation capacity, is attracting attention as a way of solving the electricity shortages.

More recently, JICA has been supporting the Sondu-Miriu Hydropower Project Sang'oro Power Plant. With the completion of this new power project, Kenya is expected to have additional generation capacity totaling 20MW.

■ Ghana

Supporting Industrial Development and Rural Area Revitalization

Ghana marked the 50th anniversary of its independence in 2007. Aiming to attain the status of a medium-developed country by 2015, politically and economically stable Ghana is steadily growing. In a country that has achieved such remarkable growth, Japan is providing Ghana with assistance from various angles, with the ultimate goal of reducing poverty through economic growth. One pillar of JICA's cooperation involves industrial development, the other rural area revitalization. Specifically, from the perspective of human security, JICA is working to complete groundwork that will consequently help to reduce poverty, alleviate regional disparity and achieve further economic growth. In tackling such groundwork, JICA is promoting the Capacity Development of Government Administration in the Upper West Region of Northern Ghana, a region showing particularly poor healthcare-related indicators. This project is aimed at enhancing basic healthcare services provided by resident health nurses and improving access to basic healthcare services for the poor.

■ Nigeria

Providing Development Assistance That Includes Primary Education Enhancement

Nigeria is a vast country with a population of approximately 140 million. However, about 70% of the entire population is living below the poverty line, which means that these people are leading their lives on only one U.S. dollar a day. In addition to such a high rate of people living in poverty, compared with other African nations, Nigeria shows higher gender disparity in terms of adult literacy rates, estimated incomes and representation in parliament. Also, despite being the largest oil-producing country in Africa and due mainly to years of military dictatorship, income from crude oil export is not being appropriately distributed to the nation's people. Accordingly, Nigeria has not been able to reduce poverty and develop infrastructure to the levels expected. The current administration, however, has recognized seven priority issues to be addressed and is tackling economic development. These issues are 1) emergency energy measures, 2) human security with regard to lives and possessions, 3) land reform, 4) human resources development, 5) compulsory education for children, 6) creation of wealth and reduction of poverty, and 7) development of transportation infra-

structure. In cooperation with the Nigerian government, JICA is assisting with economic development in the country through the implementation of primary education, the empowerment of women and other programs.

■ Senegal

Supporting Improvements in Health and Medical Services and Basic Education

Many countries in West Africa are facing such difficulties as budget and human resource shortages and weak organizational structures, hindering the ability to secure safe drinking water, providing basic education, enhancing sanitation, protecting the environment and improving the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and fishermen—all of which are JICA's priority areas of cooperation. Senegal is no exception. In 2000, the government of Senegal adopted a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) with the aim of halving poverty by 2015. In 2002, the government finalized the PRSP, formulating PRSP II in 2007. In accordance with Senegalese government policies, JICA is extending development assistance to various areas, including the supply of safe, drinkable water, health and medical services, basic education and food security.

Example

Zambia

Project for Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas (PaViDIA)

Isolated Small-Scale Farmers Making Self-Reliant Efforts toward Improving Their Livelihoods

Located in Southern Africa, Zambia is a landlocked country. More than 60% of the nation's population is living in poverty, and the rate is even higher in rural areas, with about 70% of the people living below the poverty line set by the government. Zambia's agricultural industry has a hierarchical, two-tiered structure. The lower level, which accounts for 90% of all farming households, consists of small-scale, subsistence farming households; the higher level comprises medium- and large-scale farming households that grow agricultural products for export. In order to reduce poverty in the country, it is essential to promote rural development that will be of benefit to the small-scale farming households, which are

operating under severe conditions in "isolated areas."

In the early 2000s, business conditions for small-scale farmers deteriorated significantly, due to such factors as a surge in prices of agricultural inputs, the abolition of government subsidies and the unavailability of privatized services in isolated areas. A Project for Participatory Village Development in Isolated Areas was launched to bring about improvements in such situations. Through small projects (micro projects) in which farmers themselves make self-reliant efforts, JICA is providing support by training agriculture extension workers who drive participatory development and by introducing sustainable agriculture technologies.

The principal feature of this project is that residents in isolated areas assume responsibility for promoting activities—from planning to execution—as well as for expanding the project in the future. For example, some farmers may identify and consequently commercialize local produce.



Farmers taking the lead in finding and using village resources

They can become aware of the resources they have and take advantage of this produce to change the current situation and to tirelessly tackle other issues. These activities may contribute to the improvement of village income and the reduction of poverty. There are high expectations that the approach taken in this project will be applied in other disadvantaged areas.

■ Democratic Republic of Congo Reconstruction Assistance Started under New Administration

In 2007, Democratic Republic of Congo saw its first democratic election since it declared independence, and a new administration was launched. The Japanese government has announced its intention to provide emergency and humanitarian aid through international organizations in eastern Congo, where antigovernment forces are still sparking conflicts. The Japanese government also announced that it would extend bilateral reconstruction and development aid in western Congo, which is centered on Kinshasa, the nation's capital. In response to these announcements, JICA is undertaking emergency projects aimed at peacebuilding and reconstruction in the country in a flexible and timely manner. More specifically, JICA has decided to apply a Fast Track System,* under which simplified procedures are used and related organizations tackle projects as one well-coordinated workforce. In addition, in August 2007, JICA established a JICA Democratic Republic of Congo Office (JICA DRC Office). This new office has begun full-scale operations to provide assistance in three priority areas: achieving sustainable peace, developing Congo's economy and enhancing availability of social services.

* A system introduced with the aim of facilitating swift planning and execution of emergency projects for peacebuilding and large-scale natural disaster relief through simplified procedures

Regional Expansion of the One Village One Product (OVOP) Movement in Africa

Originating in Oita Prefecture, Japan, the OVOP movement—recognized by many countries as an effective method for invigorating rural areas—has actually spread to Africa. In particular, Malawi launched a project to support an OVOP office in 2005 and has since worked to accelerate the establishment of the necessary structures and frameworks. Also, at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in May 2008, Japan announced its intention to extend comprehensive assistance to promote OVOP initiatives in Africa. To date, JICA has conducted workshops and studies in preparation for the launch of OVOP programs in individual African countries. From 2009 onward, JICA plans to start OVOP programs in a full-fledged manner in Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Senegal. Also, since fiscal 2007, JICA has been inviting administrative officials from African nations to Oita Prefecture. These officials have participated in one-month training programs to learn about the OVOP movement.

Through the OVOP program, the people in a community utilize their region-specific resources themselves to develop an original product. Due to the nature of this program, often unique products are created and make their market debuts. Currently, Japanese consumers do not often find African products, but there is the possibility that unique markets handling African products will be formed in Japan.

Nevertheless, the OVOP program does not produce a tangible outcome in the short term. Rather, the success of an OVOP program hinges on long-term support as well as the community's voluntary activities. Furthermore, the background and situations differ from country to country in Africa. Therefore, JICA is using various approaches toward country-specific OVOP programs while working to expand the program in Africa in cooperation with other donor countries and NGOs.



A range of products on view in an OVOP store



A wood carving being made

Example

A Regional Project Seminar on the Protection of Tropical Forests in the Congo Basin

Toward Conservation of Congo's Tropical Rain Forest and Biodiversity

Central Africa's Congo River basin is second only to the Amazon in South America in terms of the size of its tropical rain forest. Rich in biodiversity, the basin accommodates a huge variety of flora and fauna as well as such endangered species as mountain gorillas and offers a wealth of food sources and the means to support the livelihoods of the more than 50 million people who live there. However, with the expansion of farmland brought about by population growth, as well as illegal logging and internal conflicts, some are pointing out the possibility that the Congo River basin's tropical rain forests could rapidly disappear. The extensive rain forests soak up vast amounts of carbon

dioxide, serve the planet as a kind of giant lung and act as a countermeasure against climate change. Protecting them and the basin's rich ecosystems are important in tackling global environmental issues.

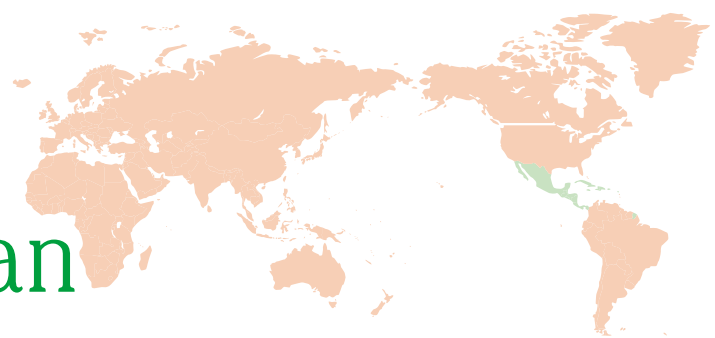
In response to a request made at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in Yokohama, Japan, in 2008, in fiscal 2009 JICA started to provide representatives from countries in the Congo River basin with opportunities to attend an educational program on forest conservation conducted in Japan. At a seminar held prior to the educational program, African participants reported on the current status of environmental issues in Africa, and individual African nations expressed their hopes that Japan would extend cooperation. Aside from this educational program, another Japan-led project is attracting attention. Promoted in collaboration with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and Professor Juichi Yamagiwa from the Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, this

project—conducted in Gabon, a country located in the Congo River basin—aims to conserve biodiversity in the basin's tropical rain forests through trials conducted on the coexistence of people with wildlife. Through this unique project, participants also aim to scientifically understand mountain gorillas and rain forests, while ecotourism is promoted in cooperation with residents of the basin.



Mountain gorillas are in danger of becoming extinct.

Central America and the Caribbean



Toward Efficient and Effective Development Assistance with Consideration Given to Regional Integration and Cooperation

In the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, which not only share a common language, history and culture, but also development issues, both regional integration and cooperation represented by the Central America Integration System (Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana [SICA]) and the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) are active. Democratic and market economies are on the whole also being established, with stable development evident. However, countries with severe problems like poverty and economic disparity are still numerous as they face many issues on the path toward sustainable economic growth. As a partner with similar values, JICA aggressively aims at development assistance and supports cooperation in attaining stabilized economic growth in the region.

Pillars of Aid

Driving Forward with a Wide-Ranging Strength in the Pillars of Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Economic Growth, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

Central America and the Caribbean region are collectively comprised of 15 countries: Mexico; Central America; and the Caribbean (including Guyana and Suriname, CARICOM member nations located on the South American continent), which include countries of all sizes bordering each other, have much in common. Despite these commonalities, each country's circumstances cannot be generalized.

With regard to population, for example, Mexico has over 100 million people, the SICA member countries (except Belize), Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti range from a few million to over 10 million, and other smaller countries with a population of less than one million are also included. Economically, there are several comparatively stable economies such as Mexico and Costa Rica that maintain international competitiveness in the manufacturing industry and whose industrial structures are advancing. There are also economies like Panama, Jamaica and the Caribbean's wealthier countries, where finance, tourism and other service-oriented industries support the economy. On the other hand, there are also many countries with fragile economic structures that are trying to shift from a dependence on primary agricultural products to an economy based on variety as well as high added value exports. While undertaking this shift, these countries still depend on primary agricultural product exports and remittances from fellow citizens residing in the United States.

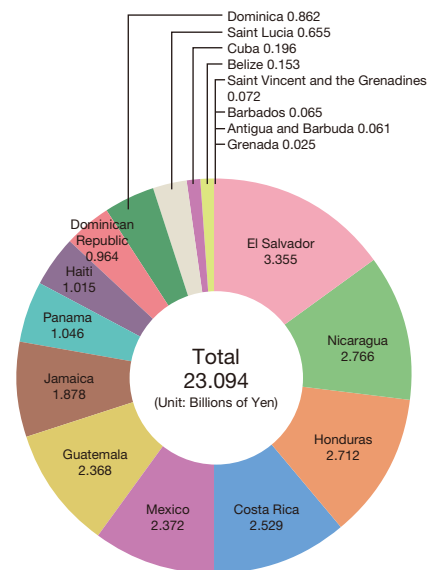
The Central American crisis (a term used to describe the civil wars in each country) devastated the region, bringing economic failure for a decade from the mid-1970s. Neighboring countries were also impacted

by an outflow of refugees and weapons. Peace continued in the 1990s, and with the exception of a small number of countries political conditions and economies on the whole stabilized owing to each country's efforts toward democratization and economic reform. However, differences throughout the region and within countries remain pronounced, and countries with serious problems like poverty, public security, and environmental protection are numerous. Taking the aforementioned into consideration, the international community's aggressive support is essential.

For Central America and the Caribbean with its many small-scale economies, while coordinating with organizations related to regional integration like SICA or CARICOM, it is important to provide support for mutual development issues, as well as coordinate with international organizations like the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other bilateral donors. A close relationship was established when the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) came into effect between Japan and Mexico in April 2005. At the same time, active steps were taken to support its South-South Cooperation for various countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Meanwhile, with the goal of peace-building and democratization, Japan actively supported national and human development in the countries of Central America from the 1990s onward, and in 1995, the Japan Central American Forum was formed between Japan and the SICA member nations. Furthermore, in connection with climate change policies, the Japanese government has entered into a mutual agreement with Central America and some Caribbean countries

Scale of JICA Projects by Country in Central America and the Caribbean (Fiscal 2008)

Composition of JICA projects for each country based on total Technical Cooperation project expenses, ODA loans (total) and Grant Aid (concluded Grant Aid including activities expedited).



* Excluding Technical Cooperation with multiple countries and international organizations.

with respect to the Cool Earth Partnership. JICA's activities are based on Japan Caribbean Consultation results, yearly diplomatic negotiations at the administrative level and encompass cooperation in the fields of disaster prevention, marine resource conservation, tourism development and environmental conservation.

Priority Issues and Efforts

Poverty Reduction Aid for Regional Security

There are people in Central America and the Caribbean who live in poverty and cannot enjoy the most basic and important components of life including education, health, medical services and safe drinking water. JICA values its partner relationships with Central America and the Caribbean while supporting the resolution and improvement of the region's three fundamental aid issues,

namely 1) measures to overcome regional and domestic economic disparities; 2) sustainable economic growth; and 3) problems caused by environmental deterioration and climate change (especially natural disasters like hurricanes and floods, urban environmental problems, and the destruction of natural resources).

With regard to the enforcement of programs, along with active support of regional and domestic self-help efforts

from the perspective of capacity development (CD), it is important to consider socially underprivileged persons like women and children, as well as indigenous people living in poverty due to historical circumstances. Moreover, a perspective of "human security" encompassing all persons is paramount at each of the regional and domestic levels. In this regard, JICA provides support in the fields of education as well as health and sanitation.

Example

Central America— Regional Cooperation Project for the Improvement of Teaching Methods in Mathematics on Primary Education

Supporting Schoolchildren's Scholastic Abilities and Teachers' Leadership Ability Advancement through Japanese-Style Mathematics

In Guatemala, educational reform based on curriculum modification is progressing, and by offering eight different policies such as "Toward Conformity with Nations and International Standards in the Quality of Education" and "Strengthening Teachers' Training and Research Systems," JICA is focused on a bottom-up approach for a final goal of stimulating national economies. JICA had children learn the minimum basic knowledge required in primary education and promoted studies in languages and mathematics as important sub-

jects. Depending on the advancement of each child's scholastic ability, efforts were made to minimize the repeat of school years and the dropout ratio. However, according to the National Children's Learning Level of Achievement Evaluation Program implemented from 2001, it was clear that children's grades on the whole were floundering (the percentage of correct answers for third grade elementary students was 46.1% in mathematics and 55.3% in reading and writing).

From 2002 to 2005, JICA dispatched a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) team to a number of pilot schools in Guatemala (four departments with a total of 16 schools, 300 teachers, and 5,000 children), and implemented the "Project to Improve Mathematics Teaching in Primary Schools." While referring to the textbooks used in a similar project in Honduras, JICA developed mathematics textbooks for children in the 1st–3rd grades that ran parallel with Guatemala's curriculum (i.e., teacher's guidebooks, workbooks for children). Steps were also taken to introduce training programs to help teachers in textbook

use. JICA was requested for repeated support by the country's government because of the striking improvement in children's grades, and from April 2006 for a period of three years JICA started a program with the goals of producing 4th–6th grade mathematics textbooks as well as realizing human resource development in the Ministry of Education of Guatemala. As was the case in Honduras, Japanese-style mathematics education is taking root in Guatemala.



Students learn from textbooks developed during the project.

Example

Nicaragua "Project to Strengthen the Civil Security Network for Youth and Family"

Protecting Youth and Women from Crime by Connecting the Community with Its Administration

In Nicaragua, the number of crimes committed by youths is rising yearly, becoming one of the country's most serious problems. According to police statistics, the incidence of crime increased threefold by 2003 from the 28,005 reported cases in 1990, while two out of three crimes were committed by youths under 25 years of age, with one in twelve crimes committed by a minor under 18

years of age. Furthermore, it is said that 600,000 youths countrywide are confronted by violence, with little or no respite from the increasing trend of sexual abuse against women.

Under these circumstances, the country's Ministry of Family (governmental organizations that promote and regulate a series of social protection programs) is deciding on and promoting strategies for action to prevent violence. The reality, however, is that these efforts are insufficient to meet pressing needs.

For its part, JICA dispatches specialists who are experts in such fields as social protection, youth crime, social psychology and policy system support. We provide aid to minimize risks against the young and women, typical targets of crime, as well as their families and local communities.



A scene from a training session. Participants create charts regarding zone risks.

Through these efforts, JICA aims to have administrations and local residents establish crime prevention systems, and to incorporate the experience of model regions into the ministry's policies.

In the field of education, we put top priority on cooperation that helps to extend basic education, and through the implementation of Technical Cooperation projects, the dispatching of volunteers and acceptance of technical training participants. JICA is working at improving the quality of primary education in particular. With the Project for the Improvement of Teaching Methods in Mathematics which started in Honduras in 2002, as a part of bilateral aid that included developments in instructor manuals and children's workbooks, JICA's efforts continue to spread to the region's other countries including Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic in the form of regional cooperation.

In the areas of health services as well as sanitation, JICA is working on a preferential basis to address such issues as the reduction of infant mortality rates, mother-child health and reproductive health in an effort to improve conditions for expectant and nursing

mothers. Other issues of concern include policies on infectious diseases targeted at people living in poverty, the improvement of regional health and medical services such as nurse's training and the supply of safe drinking water. As is the case with the field of education, JICA utilizes experts and volunteers. A representative example is the Chagas Disease Control Project that has been implemented in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama. Our endeavors to halt the spread of Chagas Disease infection in Guatemala was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international organizations, on November 19, 2008 (more information on page 101).

Looking at the region as a whole, most of the economies rely on the manufacture of primary goods based mainly on agriculture and exports, with a large proportion of the population active in the agricultural and fishing industries. In this context, a majority of the

region's populace live in poverty. JICA is therefore focused on poverty reduction. JICA aims at cooperation in adopting a theme that places considerable weight on the development and promotion of manufacturing technologies for income improvement and the promotion of rural development based on a model of citizen participation. In this sector, there are also many experts and volunteers working in the field.

Support for Sustainable Economic Growth

The scars from long-running civil wars run deep, while basic infrastructure that remains unattended acts as an impediment to economic activity, and thus an obstacle to reconstruction. JICA is mainly focusing on financial cooperation (loans and grants) and promotes coordination with the IDB and other donors to target the construction and restoration of necessary roads and bridges in order to realize sustainable economic growth.

Example

Central America and the Caribbean Region

"Project for Productivity Improvement" and "Project for the Improvement of Facilitator Capability as Related to the Advancement of Quality and Productivity in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises" (Central America and the Caribbean Region)

Supporting Management Consultant Training Necessary to Strengthen the International Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

The countries of the Central American region have accepted economic globalization and progress

from the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement, and are setting forth policies that aim to increase international competitive power and improve productivity. To fulfill this economic growth as well as development needs, JICA cooperated with all countries. In this regard, the "Project for Productivity Improvement" (2001-2006) in Costa Rica highlights the results to be gained in quality, manufacturing and business management from the application of the Japanese production management system that encompasses with the 5S methodology and *kaizen*.

One result of the transfer of technology was the introduction of the Accredited Management Consultant System that targeted the counterpart of the Technical Instructor and Personnel Training Center (Centro de Formación de Formadores y de Personal Técnico para el Desarrollo Industrial de

Centroamérica: CEFOF), the organization implementing the program. Based on the JPC's (Japan Productivity Center) confirmation, 11 of the counterpart's members were certified as management consultants (at the senior level).

In the future, JICA will employ management consultants trained during the project as core personnel, and with this year's Project for the Improvement of Facilitator Capability as Related to the Advancement of Quality and Productivity in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (2009-2012), utilizing the scheme of third-country training (eight countries in Central America), JICA will support human resource development for the advancement of quality and productivity, while continuing to contribute to the reinforcement of industrial development and international competitive power throughout the region.

From Our Expert "Our Counterparts' Enthusiastic Ideas are Reflected in the Project."

For 15 long years, our counterparts learned about Japanese-style productivity and quality improvement technology. Presently, they are trained to lead enterprises, and are a great source of pride. Every time there are surveys done for each country's needs, I feel humbled when ministers and directors speak proudly of this Japanese success story. They truly respect the Central American values and are passionate about building favorable relations with other Central American countries, which is most certainly reflected in the project.

As five years have already passed since the completion of cooperation for the last third-country training conducted in 2004, CEFOF management consultants, the core of this project's implementation, are extremely excited. I could sense their strong desire to contribute to the strengthening of other countries' small and medium-sized enterprises.



Eizo Uegaki, Long-Term Expert
(Chief Advisor/Coordinator)

With Guatemala's "Zonapaz Road Improvement Project," the National Highway RN-7 East that crosses the peace region ("Zonapaz," where civil war damage was especially prominent), and roads leading to local government and rural roads were repaired through the provision of ODA loans. This necessarily supported improvements in the living standards of local residents as well as the region's economic activity.

Meanwhile, the impact of the world's financial and economic crisis affected the region due to its close relations with the United States. This caused direct investments from abroad to greatly decrease. Furthermore, the decrease in remittances from fellow citizens living in the U.S. to mainly Mexico is also serving to slow economic growth. Under these circumstances, it is important to continue promoting an infrastructure that ties in with the enhancement of economic activity within the region.

For instance, El Salvador's "La Union Port Development Project" was based on the provision of ODA loans. In combination with Technical Cooperation, the project will continue to support the advancement of El Salvador's east-

ern region development, triggered by improvements in infrastructure. Moreover, those fishing people living in the region, who support themselves by gathering ark shells and native oysters, were greatly affected by the confusion that arose in the aftermath of civil war which forced many inland residents to lose their means of living. Because of migration to the coast, excessive fishing continued, creating a drain on fishing resources. To resolve these types of problems, JICA developed technologies for shellfish cultivation, an activity that is deeply rooted in the area. At the same time, we worked to stimulate a mindset that would allow fishing people to gather shellfish resources, and implemented Technical Cooperation projects to support lifestyle improvements.

Support for Environmental Conservation and Tackling Climate Change

Along with the concentration of population in urban areas as well as manufacturing activities aimed at economic development, responses to waste disposal and water pollution in urban areas are becoming issues that require urgent attention. At the same time,

conservation of the rich natural environment that is characteristic of the region and that serves as a valuable tourist attraction is also a matter of importance.

Complementing its efforts toward environmental conservation, JICA is also actively involved in climate change, a global-scale issue that surpasses geographic borders. Turning to the "Cool Earth Partnership," member countries (11 of 90 are from Central America and the Caribbean as of August 2009) aim to support mitigation measures that emphasize renewable energy and energy saving, as well as adaptation initiatives for village water-supply systems. JICA is presently preparing to provide Grant Aid to support Guatemala's small-scale hydroelectric power generation capabilities as well as for other environmental programs.

Example

Jamaica

"Water Facilities Maintenance and Management Project (Technical Cooperation Project)"
"The Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Supply Project (ODA Loan Project)"

Supporting System Building for a Safe and Efficient Water Supply Using the Synergy of Technical Cooperation and ODA Loan

Plumbing operations in Jamaica are managed by the National Water Commission (NWC) which divides the area into east and west, and then again into four regions. Each region receives water from approximately 350 water purification plants. In 2003, widespread waterworks use reached 71%, but only 35% of the 291 million m³ of planned clean water was revenue water volume. This was mainly attributable to leakage from degraded water supply pipes, supply to areas where fees cannot be applied and water theft. Accordingly, the level of water facility equipment and maintenance is clearly inadequate.

JICA received a request from the government of Jamaica on Technical Cooperation to strengthen the capability of NWC staff in water facility maintenance. On this basis, a Technical Cooperation project which focuses on three main areas, namely the operation and maintenance of water purification plants, water quality maintenance and water supply pipe planning (water operations) is being implemented. By training staff involved in waterworks and providing for a basic transfer of technology, JICA is promoting the independent and sustainable growth of developing

countries and fulfilling its role to provide aid for the resolution of global issues. On the country's water issues, ODA loan totaling ¥6.64 billion was approved for the "Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Supply Project" in 1996, which is now being implemented for the development of water resources as well as the restoration and expansion of water supply facilities, and thus to eliminate serious water shortages. This is one of the invaluable practices that reflect the synergy benefits gained between Technical Cooperation and ODA loan.



The Spanish Town Water Treatment Plant completed in August 2008 through the provision of ODA Loan

South America



Social Unrest in the Shadow of Prosperity: Efficient and Effective Aid Addressing Each Country's Issues

The solid economic growth displayed in recent years by South America, blessed with fertile earth and abundant natural and mineral resources, has been hit by the impact of the global economic crisis. With the income gap between the haves and have-nots already large, unease among people who live in poverty and are missing the benefits of growth are inviting social tensions. The nations of South America understand the importance of poverty reduction and correcting disparities, but the specific challenges faced by each country differ are leading JICA to realize the need for aid that takes into consideration the conditions specific to each country.

Pillars of Aid

Building Stronger Relationships with Japan, on the Pillars of Efforts toward Global Issues (Climate Change Strategies), Development of Foundations for Sustainable Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction and the Correction of Disparities

South America bears the effects of its history of colonial rule by Western European nations, and even today great social disparities remain. Many nations in the region failed to control their economies in the 1980s, experiencing a "lost decade" of higher inflation rates and crippling debt. But the 1990s saw the introduction of economic reforms based on neo-liberal policies, along with privatization and deregulation, led by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Since then the entire region has enjoyed generally stable economic growth, with income levels rising in many of its countries.

Yet in the shadow of this economic growth lies social unrest, including a growing number of people living in poverty as well as greater economic disparities within the region and its countries. Recently in many countries, administrations have formed whose main supporter bases are people living in poverty, a considerable portion of the citizenry. These administrations have taken another look at neo-liberal policies. Correction of disparities within nations and the region has become a vital issue for regional stability.

South American economies depend heavily upon the production and export of primary products, and as such are greatly affected by the global economy and markets. Fostering industry, promoting trade and readying the environment for investment are all vital to sustainable growth. Improving the functioning of administration is similarly a requisite foundation for promoting people's economic activity.

Concern is now running high over global climate change, and all countries are being called into action. With its high potential for food production and with the world's largest tropical rain forest in the Amazon region, South America is a region of key importance from the policy standpoint of global climate change. In addition, a worsening of urban environmental issues continues apace with economic growth, also calling for urgent measures.

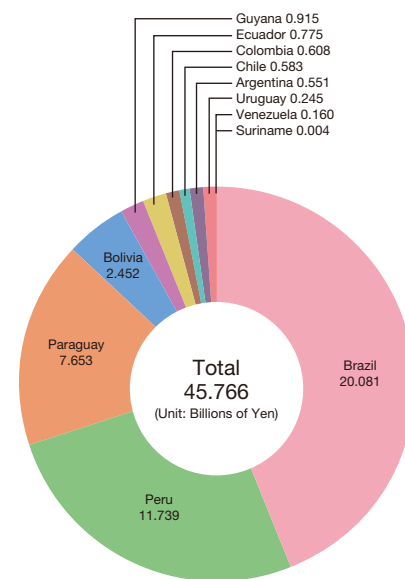
JICA has established the following as the pillars of its aid to the region: Efforts toward Global Issues (Climate Change Strategies); Development of Foundations for Sustainable Economic Growth; and Poverty Reduction and the Correction of Disparities. JICA carries out relevant programs with consideration given to regional characteristics. Emphasis is also placed on strengthening relations with Japan, focusing on the following three points:

- 1) Recognize that disparities exist within the region and within countries
- 2) Contribute to development while respecting government ownership
- 3) Spread the benefits of growth to the poorest sectors

As national economies and finances have worsened under the global economic and financial crisis of 2008, procurement of funding has become ever more challenging. The result has been a marked jump in expectation for ODA loans and a pressing need to address that demand.

Scale of JICA Projects by Country in South America (Fiscal 2008)

Composition of JICA projects for each country based on total Technical Cooperation project expenses, ODA loans (total), and Grant Aid (concluded Grant Aid including activities expedited).



* Excluding Technical Cooperation with multiple countries and international organizations.

Priority Issues and Efforts

Efforts toward Global Issues (Climate Change Strategies)

The impact of global issues such as climate change threatens South America, creating the need for a region-wide response. JICA is undertaking collaboration and the formation of cooperation programs in many countries.

Loss of forests due to illegal logging continues in the Amazon region, home of the world's largest tropical rain forest. The effect of this on climate change and ecosystems gives cause for fear, making preservation of the Amazon region a global issue. For its part, JICA places importance on cooperating toward that conservation. In Brazil, JICA contributes via the Project for Utilization of ALOS Images to Protect Brazilian Amazon and Combat against Illegal Deforestation, which makes use of images from Japan's Advanced Land Observing Satellite, also known as "Daichi." This project uses Japanese technology to analyze images even through atmospheric cloud cover, improving efficiency in monitoring forest loss to better observe and control illegal logging. (See page 105)

In the same way, the Sustainable Use of Forest Resources in Estuary Tidal Floodplains in Amapa Project implemented in Brazil employs International Training Course for Agroforestry Systems Technology to support both forest conservation and agricultural operations, with the goal of sustainable forest management and effective use of legally logged timber. JICA invited technical training participants from five Amazon region countries for third-country training in agroforestry courses and is working toward agroforestry technology as well as the development and diffusion of processing technology for harvested produce, all toward the goal of balancing forest conservation with agricultural operations.

Further, glaciers in the Andes mountain range, home to 99% of the world's tropical-region glaciers, are disappearing rapidly due to climate change. JICA has begun information collection for measures to address the impacts on water resources and risks of natural disaster facing the Andes highlands due to the loss of tropical glaciers, centered on the three nations

of Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

In Peru, JICA is undertaking the Master Plan for Development of Geothermal Energy, supporting efforts toward CDM inclusion of the nation's reusable energy. In Paraguay, too, JICA is assisting CDM preparation for the ODA loan-supported Yguazu hydro-power station construction project.

Development of Foundations for Sustainable Economic Growth

With abundant resources and latent market potential, in recent years the South American region has shown solid economic growth centered on private investment. But that growth has visibly slowed under the effects of the global economic crisis. In response to the situation, expectations are high in the region for improvement of the investment climate, development of economic foundations to stimulate domestic demand and measures to fund small and medium businesses.

Recognizing correction of domestic income disparities as a major developmental issue, JICA is undertaking efforts including the following, to address the situation and reenergize regional economies:

- 1) Preparation of regional port improvement projects in Brazil
- 2) Preparation and implementation of local road improvement projects Paraguay
- 3) Preparation and implementation of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Project (Japan's Two-Step Loan) in Colombia

Poverty Reduction and the Correction of Disparities

Measures to address poverty and the correction of disparities are an issue common to all South American countries as well as a cornerstone of each nation's governmental policy.

JICA's cooperation in low-income Paraguay and Bolivia focuses on poverty reduction. While addressing small-scale agricultural household poverty reduction in Bolivia through programs such as the Project for Rural Development in Altipalno Central and the Project of System Establishment for Implementation of Sustainable

Rural Development Phase II, from the standpoint of human security and empowerment, JICA has formed programs such as the Program of Water Supply in Area of Poverty, Program of the Quality Improvement of Primary School Education and the Program for Strengthening Community Health Networks Focusing on Maternal and Child Health, all of which support access to basic social services.

In Paraguay, JICA is working toward formation of cooperative programs to enable the synergy of three schemes: Technical Assistance, loan aid, and Grant Aid. Specifically, JICA is considering ideas to support ODA loans for water and sewer infrastructure development requiring large-scale investment in urban areas; Grant Aid for small- and medium-scale infrastructure development centered in agricultural areas; and for the water sector as a whole, Technical Assistance for the creation of water fee collection systems and creation of development plans and implementation systems.

In addition, JICA is carrying out projects to aid indigenous peoples, refugees from conflicts and other socially vulnerable persons. In Ecuador, these include the Reorganization of the Agriculture Supporting Services, Coping with Poverty Alleviation for Rural Peasants in Mountainous Area; Capacity Development for Promoting the Sustainable Integral Rural Development for Poverty Reduction in Chimborazo Province; and Strengthening of the Occupational Training for the Vulnerable Sector. In Peru, these include the Study on the Program of Rural Development for Poor Peasants and Local Capacity Strengthening in Central Highlands. In Colombia, these include the Project for the Support of Entrepreneurship and Employment for the Household of Demobilized Ex-Combatants and Recipient Communities in Colombia.

Toward mid-level-income nations such as Peru and Brazil, whose growth places it among the newly industrialized "BRICs*" nations, JICA employs highly synergistic development assistance that combines ODA loans with Technical Assistance. Through projects in Peru such as the Iquitos Sewerage Improvement and Expansion Project and the

Cajamarca Water Supply and Sewerage Improvement and Expansion Project to improve access to water and sewer services, and the Electric Frontier Expansion Project III to promote electrification in remote mountain regions, JICA is making a contribution to the correction of disparities.

Strengthening Relations with Japan

In countries with higher levels of income, government or foreign aid has a relatively lower overall economic impact, making private economic activity the cornerstone of development.

As its means of cooperating with such nations, JICA is considering promotion of trade, investment and technological development in countries, making use of the technologies and experience found within Japan's private sector, universities and research organizations.

As part of the Study for Mine Pollution Prevention Measures in Peru, JICA advises on strengthening education for organizations and people, as well as on the evaluation of mine closure plans and the drafting of mine pollution prevention strategic plans.

Measures against pollution stemming from inactive or closed mines

have become imperative in Peru, an important supplier of vital metal resources such as copper and zinc to Japan. JICA's cooperation is expected to aid development of a closer relationship between the two countries in the resource sector.

* BRICs is an acronym for four newly emerging national markets displaying marked economic growth: Brazil, Russia, India and China.

Example

Brazil Tiete River Basin Environment Improvement Project

Using ODA Loans to Improve the Flood-Prone River That Paralyzed the São Paulo Metropolitan Region

The São Paulo metropolitan area is home to 17 million people, about a tenth of the population of Brazil. It is the nation's economic center and the fifth largest city in the world. But the Tiete River running east-west through the city was prone to flooding, cutting off traffic including main roads connecting the city to Guarulhos International Airport, causing homes to submerge and of infectious disease to spread. At the same time, the city had an urgent need to secure new water supplies for its growing population. To address both flood damage and the need for water sources, soft loans enabled river improvement and the construction of dams along the main flow and some tributaries.

As the result of the improvement works, the occurrence of Tiete River flooding dropped from approximately once every two years to a predicted once every 100 years. The economic benefit of

preventing the floods is enormous: an estimated US\$215 million in averted damage to residences, factories and commercial facilities every two

years, and US\$14 million in averted losses for every three continuous days of traffic havoc.



The Tiete River that runs along the main roads connecting São Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport to the city. Frequent flooding has caused extensive damage.

Message from an Expert
**Toward a Greater Sense of
 Crisis over Natural Destruction**
 Norio Fukutome, Freelance Announcer



Norio Fukutome, a man passionately engaged in conservation activities over concern for environmental issues, visited the Amazon as a journalist in September 2007. Seeing firsthand the encroachment of pastures and soybean fields on the tropical rain forest, it was a shock to him to learn of the issue's close involvement with Japan's eating habits.

When I saw the rain forest from above, I was surprised at how far things have gone. Places that were once pastures were now soybean fields and what was once rain forest was now pasture. The reason for the growth in field and pasture area goes without saying. The world's demand for food is rising, and so is demand for soybeans in biodiesel fuel, what with rising oil prices and the necessity for global warming measures. Over 20 years ago Brazil rapidly increased production and export of sugar cane and soybeans; it puts the foreign currency earned to use in improving social services like education, health and medical services, creating growth that placed it among the BRIC nations.

Knowing this, we can't just say "don't expand your soybean fields."

A little upriver from the city of Manaus in the middle of the rain forest, there's a facility to produce edible oil from soybeans grown in the Amazon. What surprised me was that the producer is a joint-venture company with a Japanese partner, and the greatest consumers of the oil are Japan and China. And the company that develops and sells products made with the oil is a sponsor of television programs. Our lifestyles would be lost without this sort of corporate activity, yet few Japanese realize how much nature is destroyed on behalf of those lifestyles. This is a big problem.

It's significant that JICA cooperates in activities to monitor illegal logging in the Amazon tropical rain forest. As the next step, I'd like to see support for agribusiness (economic activity through agriculture) that gets by without illegal logging in the Amazon.

Example

Bolivia Water Is Health and Life Phase 2

Supporting Access to Safe Drinking Water and Economic Self-Reliance in Villages

Bolivia is one of those South American nations most lagging in the development of basic infrastructure including water and sewage. In particular, the water sufficiency ratio in farming villages, where nearly half the population lives, is a low 51%. This leads to the spread of water-borne infectious disease in the villages and population flight to cities, making the situation a factor hindering regional development.

JICA used Grant Aid to build wells in 340 locations, securing access to drinking water for 260,000 people. Thanks to the transfer of well digging technology in the process, the digging of new wells now continues under the leadership of regional administrations.

On top of this structural support, JICA offered non-structural support including the organization of water management committees under Phase 1 of Water Is Health and Life. Further, JICA supported efforts to improve cash collection in villages to enable water fee payments through the spread of livestock raising and family farming. As a result, 940 wells were constructed by the end of 2008, benefiting 970,000 people.

Phase 2 of Water Is Health and Life was initiated in 2008, yet there are disparities among provinces in the achievements of Phase 1. JICA is promoting inter-provincial cooperation to enable support from provinces with high levels of technology to those with lower levels. In addition, JICA is planning to strengthen the organization with the construction of a technical center as the focus for inter-provincial cooperation. In the future, while working to establish a training system, JICA will develop methods for easy on-site operations and maintenance management of manual well-digging equipment, wind-powered pumps, water supply facilities with solar panels, simple bio-filtration devices, solar-powered desalination devices and so on.



Using digging equipment provided by Japan to dig a well for people without access to safe water.



Water begins flowing from a well. Children are overjoyed to see water spilling like a waterfall.

Oceania



Providing Assistance for Small Island Nations to Overcome Their Fragile, Weak and Vulnerable Nature

In recent years, Oceania has faced wide-ranging challenges including an increase in the amount of waste, inadequate health, medical and educational services, a decline in fishery resources, an under-developed infrastructure and climate change. Contributing factors include the unique geographic nature of island nations throughout the region, encompassing widely dispersed national territories, small-scale domestic markets and limited access to international markets. In overcoming these challenges, assistance from the international community represents a key solution. Until now, JICA, while considering the unique characteristics of the Oceania region, has designated waste management, health and medical services, education, fishery resource management and infrastructure development as focus areas when implementing assistance programs. JICA has also begun to introduce active cooperation programs that address climate change measures in the region.

Pillars of Aid

Confronting Challenges through Region-Wide Cooperation and Consideration of the Uniqueness of Each Country

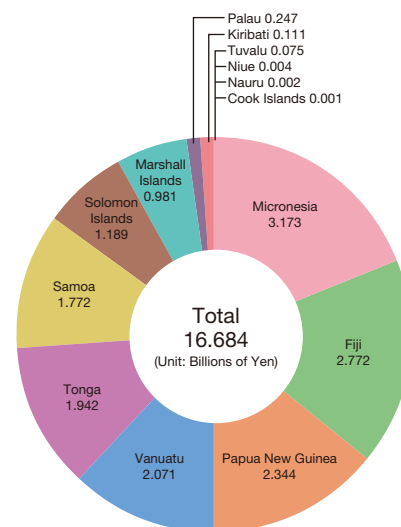
JICA provides assistance to the following members of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF): Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu as well as the Cook Islands and Niue, which are in free association with New Zealand. As mentioned previously, the island nations of Oceania face many difficulties with regard to development due to their vulnerable nature, including a territory spread out over vast stretches of ocean, small domestic markets and geographic isolation from international markets. Recently, experts have also pointed out their vulnerable nature in the face of climate change. Population sizes of these island nations are also quite diverse, ranging anywhere from 10,000 in Tuvalu and Nauru to six million in Papua New Guinea.

From a geographic and cultural standpoint, Oceania is largely separated into the three sub-regions of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia, with each sub-region completely unique from one another both culturally and economically. While considering the uniqueness of each of these regions, and in light of the fact that scale merits are difficult to achieve because of the small size of each country, JICA has collaborated with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United

Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in conducting innovative regional programs. These organizations have a strong record of accomplishment in the region, and collaboration with their human resource networks has proven to be an indispensable method in addressing the shared regional needs for waste management, infectious disease measures and education. In its region-wide cooperation initiatives, JICA dispatches specialists to countries where it maintains a presence to conduct training and educational programs in order to create a shared regional model for development, and in turn spread this knowledge to neighboring countries. Human resources cultivated through third-country training in countries with a JICA presence return to their home country where they apply their training in practical situations based on an action plan created in line with unique local conditions. Thus far, through its training programs, JICA has fostered region-wide cooperation as it relates to vaccinations, waste management, and distance education. In addition, JICA is currently in the planning stages for the implementation of future programs for improving disaster reduction competencies, expanding human resources in the health and medical care sector and promoting more effective usage and management of fishery resources.

Scale of JICA Projects by Country in Oceania (Fiscal 2008)

Composition of JICA projects for each country based on total Technical Cooperation project expenses, ODA loans (disbursed amounts) and Grant Aid (concluded Grant Aid including activities expedited).



* Excluding Technical Cooperation with multiple countries and international organizations.

Priority Issues and Efforts

Health and Medical Services

JICA is addressing the challenge represented by the fields of health and medical services through assistance programs focused on expanding human resources in Oceania. Combined with the continued development of infrastructure, such as medical and research facilities, JICA is attempting to realize synergistic effects by means of assistance involving both structural and non-structural support. Many aid organizations in Oceania have achieved great success by promoting the use of vaccinations to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, with poliomyelitis having been completely eradicated from the region. Yet, many countries in the region do not have the cold chain logistic competencies needed to transport vaccinations safely at a low temperature, with many children today still unable to receive safe attention. In order to resolve this, in 2003, Japan, Australia, WHO and UNICEF adopted a proclamation to collaborate jointly in meeting the common goal of increasing the number of vaccinations accessible to the region.

Under the framework of Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening (PIPS), which is a partnership formed by development partners to support the 22 countries of Oceania and vaccination programs in the region, JICA, with Fiji as a center of operations, has taken on a leading role in PIPS, with a program horizon of five years from 2005. The infectious diseases prevention program, forming the core of the project, targets 13 countries in the Oceania region. The program provides support for the management of vaccination programs, maintenance and upkeep of refrigerated vehicles for vaccination transport and the expansion of human resources. The cooperation realized through local dialogue of project specialists has received highly positive evaluations, and going forward the program has high expectations. JICA also works together with the Institute of Tropical Medicine Nagasaki University to implement programs that foster the development of technical competencies for vaccine management and safe disposal of medical waste.

Climate Change Countermeasures

JICA is actively involved in assistance efforts to help protect the beautiful seas and islands of the Pacific from the impact of climate change. Countries with low elevations, such as Tuvalu, remain fragile, weak and vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, and so strengthening these countries' capacity to adapt is an urgent issue. Specifically, JICA is assisting countries in Oceania to improve their forecasting abilities for tropical cyclones by constructing weather observation facilities and providing other equipment, which greatly mitigates frequently occurring cyclone-related damage. In addition, other JICA-led long-term efforts include third-country training with the purpose of improving weather forecasting competencies and building human resource networks in the region, as well as research on ways to address rising sea levels and to understand better the mechanisms of island development.

The Environment

The issue of waste disposal is a common challenge shared by the many island nations of Oceania. After an assistance program for landfill structures, specifically semi-aerobic landfills, to decompose waste in the Independent State of Samoa was implemented in 2000, similar types of programs were established in other neighboring countries, as one single program eventually helped to improve waste disposal practices in the entire region. JICA has supported plans to draft waste management proposals in each country together with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), an international organization with a local presence in Samoa. JICA is also making efforts to spread the development of human resources and development models in the region. In May 2009, JICA hosted the Oceania Waste Management Workshop, inviting waste management officials from

Pacific Islands Summit and JICA: Addressing the Challenges of Oceania as an Equal Partner

At the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) (commonly referred to as the Pacific Islands Summit in Japan) representatives from 14 countries and two regions from Oceania, including Australia and New Zealand, as well as Japan's Prime Minister and other Japanese government officials were brought together at a summit-level meeting to discuss the many issues facing Oceania. Held every three years starting in 1997, the first Pacific Islands Summit meeting was held in Tokyo, the second in Miyazaki, and the third and fourth in Okinawa. At the third summit meeting held in 2003, participants adopted the Okinawa Initiative as an action plan and specific strategy to be implemented together between Japan and Oceania countries and regions, while the fourth meeting adopted the Okinawa Partnership for a more robust and prosperous Pacific Region as a new cooperation framework for the Japan and Pacific Islands Forum. Additionally at the fourth summit, Japan pledged to provide ¥45 billion in assistance for the three years following 2006. Japan also announced an assistance policy centered on the goals of expanding human resources in the public sector by 4,000 and providing human resource interaction for 1,000 youth. All of the goals announced at the fourth summit meeting have been achieved to date.

The fifth summit meeting was held in Hokkaido in May 2009 and welcomed active discussions from participants primarily centered on 1) addressing environment and climate change issues, 2) overcoming the fragile, weak and vulnerable nature of Oceania from the standpoint of human security, and 3) strengthening interaction of human resources. Japan also announced that it would commit ¥50 billion in assistance over the next three years, while participating countries adopted the Islanders' Hokkaido Declaration which centers on active collaborative assistance efforts in the above three focus areas.

In light of Japan's assistance policy announced at the fifth Pacific Islands Summit, JICA will continue to provide assistance programs in the focus areas of waste management, health, medical and education services, fishery resource management and infrastructure development, while also increasing financial cooperation as well as Technical Assistance for climate change measures.

In addition, JICA plans to continue conducting training programs and dispatching volunteers to promote the expansion of human resources in each of these focus areas.

governments in the region to join one another in discussing common needs of both the region and in each individual country and to form a plan of cooperation framework going forward.

Moreover, along with support for final-disposal sites, JICA is assisting Fiji and Palau with steps to reduce waste and introduce recycling schemes. Based on the successful domestic example of recycling and waste reduction from the city of Shibushi in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan, JICA helped to create a 3R model—reducing, reusing and recycling—in Fiji. JICA expects the experiences from this model to be applied to neighboring countries in the near future.

Education: Expanding Educational Opportunities and Improving Educational Quality in Island Nations

JICA has been providing assistance aimed at improving the quality of education and developing distance education programs utilizing correspondence education, short-wave radio and satellite communication networks in order to expand educational opportunities in the island nations of Oceania, and as a means to overcome the sometimes-remote nature and difficult accessibility due to the geography and topography of the region.

The University of the South Pacific, headquartered in Fiji, is a regional university founded by 12 countries in Oceania in 1968. With Japanese support, the university constructed a satellite

communications network, allowing branch campuses located throughout the region to connect to the home campus to provide distance education programs, and achieving bilateral communications between schools and students.

In Papua New Guinea, where many locations are difficult to access due to mountainous terrain or the outlying nature of some islands, Japanese Grant Aid was used to construct a national media center where educational programming content is produced and broadcast from classes of the main campus to satellite schools by television. Television-based classes have helped to raise awareness among local residents about the importance of education and have improved the grades of local students.

Example

Palau International Coral Reef Center

Protecting the Shared Heritage of the World

Palau, surrounded by one of the largest and most abundant coral reefs in the world, has made it a top priority to develop tourism opportunities in the country, such as diving and other marine sports. In recent years, however, coastal development and rising seawater temperatures have devastated some sections of the country's coral reef. As a result, there has been an ongoing need to study the marine ecosystem of this coral reef as well as work to preserve and use it in a sustainable manner.

Accordingly, the Government of Palau planned to establish a research hub aimed at coral reef preservation and management in the Pacific Region. In response to this, Japan provided Grant Aid for the construction of the Palau International Coral Reef Research Center (PICRC) on Koror, which was completed in 2002. From 2002 to 2006, JICA dispatched a total of 20 experts and researchers, who provided training programs for staff of the center in the following areas: 1) organizational management of the Center; 2) operational and exhibition management of the attached aquarium; 3) establishment of coral reef research and monitoring; and 4) technical training provided for conducting environmental education programs for local residents.

Having received specialized training, staff from Palau were in turn able to conduct research on the ecosystem of the country's coral reef, with the research results widely recognized by international researchers. JICA experts also worked together with local researchers to write and edit theses, research papers and picture reference books, which played an integral role in boosting the recognition of the center.

In January 2006, the countries of the Micro-

nesia sub-region including Palau announced the Micronesia Challenge, which aims to preserve the natural environment in the entire region by pledging to preserve 30% of coastal waters and 20% of rainforest by 2020. JICA resumed assistance to the center from July 2009 in order to contribute to the realization of these goals. Going forward, JICA plans to implement assistance programs aimed at fostering technical competencies for coral reef monitoring.



Aquatic lab at the Palau International Coral Reef Research Center (PICRC)

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Senior Volunteers have been dispatched to work on improving the quality of mathematics education in the primary education sector in Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau. In addition, workshops have been hosted for the preparation of a teachers' arithmetic association underway in Vanuatu. All of these efforts contribute to the basic framework of cooperation between the JICA volunteer program and local educators in elementary school arithmetic. Moreover, in enhancing the education level in Samoa, JICA has started a volunteer program-led project for the improvement of basic education in science and arithmetic and is now providing training for teachers in the area.



Improvement seen in Tafaigata landfill treatment facilities in Samoa after adopting the Fukuoka method. After a garbage truck arrives, scavengers pick up valuables from the collection before the machinery sweeps the garbage away for crushing and compacting.

Example

Samoa Samoa Power Sector Expansion Project

Promoting the Use of Renewable Energy and Underground Power Lines in Support of a Stable Electricity Supplies in All-Weather Conditions Regardless of Climate Change

Diesel thermal plants are the main source of power generation in many countries in Oceania. However, this type of power plant is costly in terms of people's lifestyle and the environment as the cost of crude oil soars and environmental burdens increase. Moreover, frequent occurrence of natural disasters in the region, such as cyclones, can often cause power outages as well as create bottlenecks for investment because of unstable power supplies.

In Samoa, while stable electricity supplies only reach two-thirds of installed capacity due to facility aging and deterioration, strong economic growth seen in recent years calls for a 4% increase in electrical power demand annually,

making a stable power supply a critical issue for immediate attention. In light of such circumstances, JICA began its support of the Electric Power Corporations Investment Plan (2008–2015) of the Electric Power Corporation of Samoa (EPC), which included the construction and refurbishing of power plants as well as power cable development and repair. In addition, ODA loans are provided to Samoa in order to achieve steady supplies of electricity throughout the country in promoting further economic growth. This project entails the promotion of renewable energy use through the building of new and high-efficiency diesel

thermal plants as well as the development of hydro power plants that provide low-cost and eco-friendly energy resources that can be secured within the nation. This is in addition to contingency planning through the promotion of underground power cables and use of high-voltage power cables. This project marks the first provision of ODA loans to Samoa, and at the same time is a cooperative effort between JICA and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) based on a joint initiative launched by the Japanese government and ADB known as Enhanced Sustainable Development for Asia (ESDA).



An aging thermal power plant in Apia, Samoa where new construction is scheduled thanks to JICA ODA loans