



Lovely People,  
Lovely Earth

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# Lovely People, Lovely Earth

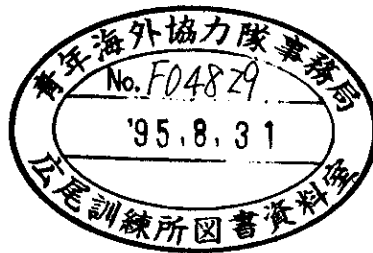
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**J.O.C.V. around the globe**

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## **Introduction**

In 30 years since its founding in 1965, with the generous assistance and support of various individuals and organizations, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) has dispatched more than 14,000 Japanese to 62 countries around the world. During this period, the countries, the nature of the work and the types of dispatch have steadily evolved in line with major changes in the international situation. New developments include dispatches to Eastern Europe, efforts to tackle environmental issues and wide-ranging team projects.

Meanwhile, the volunteers themselves are still striving to help others and to take on new personal challenges in the same spirit as ever, conquering differences in language, culture and customs to achieve harmony with local communities. Even at this very moment, JOCV volunteers are active throughout the world, doing their best to meet the needs of local people and discover their own personal potential.

Many volunteers later say that they learned far more during their stay than they taught, demonstrating how well their work blends in with local conditions.

This collection of photographs of the work of JOCV volunteers has been compiled in honor of the 30th anniversary of JOCV.

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to editor Takeyoshi TANUMA for his time and effort, to the photographers who visited JOCV volunteers on site, and all those others who contributed photographs.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV),  
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



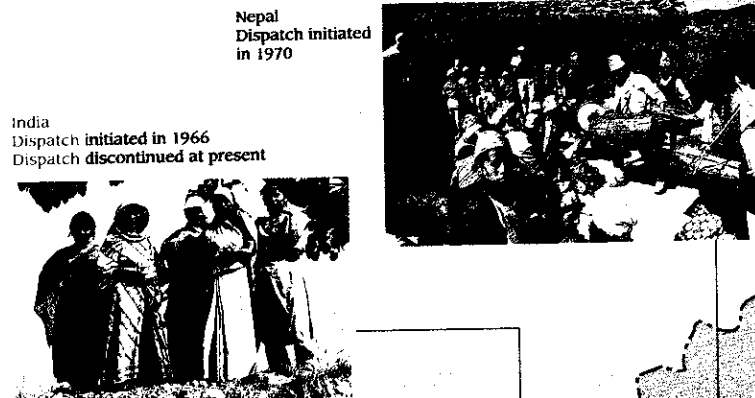
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# Asia

A dispatch of five volunteers to Laos in 1965 was the first chapter in the history of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, a program that continues to this day --

The sheer size of Asia and the significant differences between rural and urban communities means that every volunteer takes a different approach to work in his or her field. Volunteers often bring a fresh new eye to their work as well as playing a major role in their community. The nature of the work is undergoing various changes, as individuals bring together their ideas and skills on increasingly ambitious projects. In Cambodia, reconstruction is proceeding apace under a tripartite cooperation project involving volunteers from Japan and ASEAN countries, known as the Rural Development and Resettlement Project in the Kingdom of Cambodia. Elsewhere, JOCV volunteers are working to improve living standards and expand the network of volunteers. While the process itself may change, their ambition and dedication will always be the same.



Nepal  
Dispatch initiated in 1970



India  
Dispatch initiated in 1966  
Dispatch discontinued at present



Pakistan  
Dispatch initiated in 1995



Bhutan  
Dispatch initiated in 1988



Maldives  
Dispatch initiated in 1982



Bangladesh  
Dispatch initiated in 1973



Thailand  
Dispatch initiated in 1981



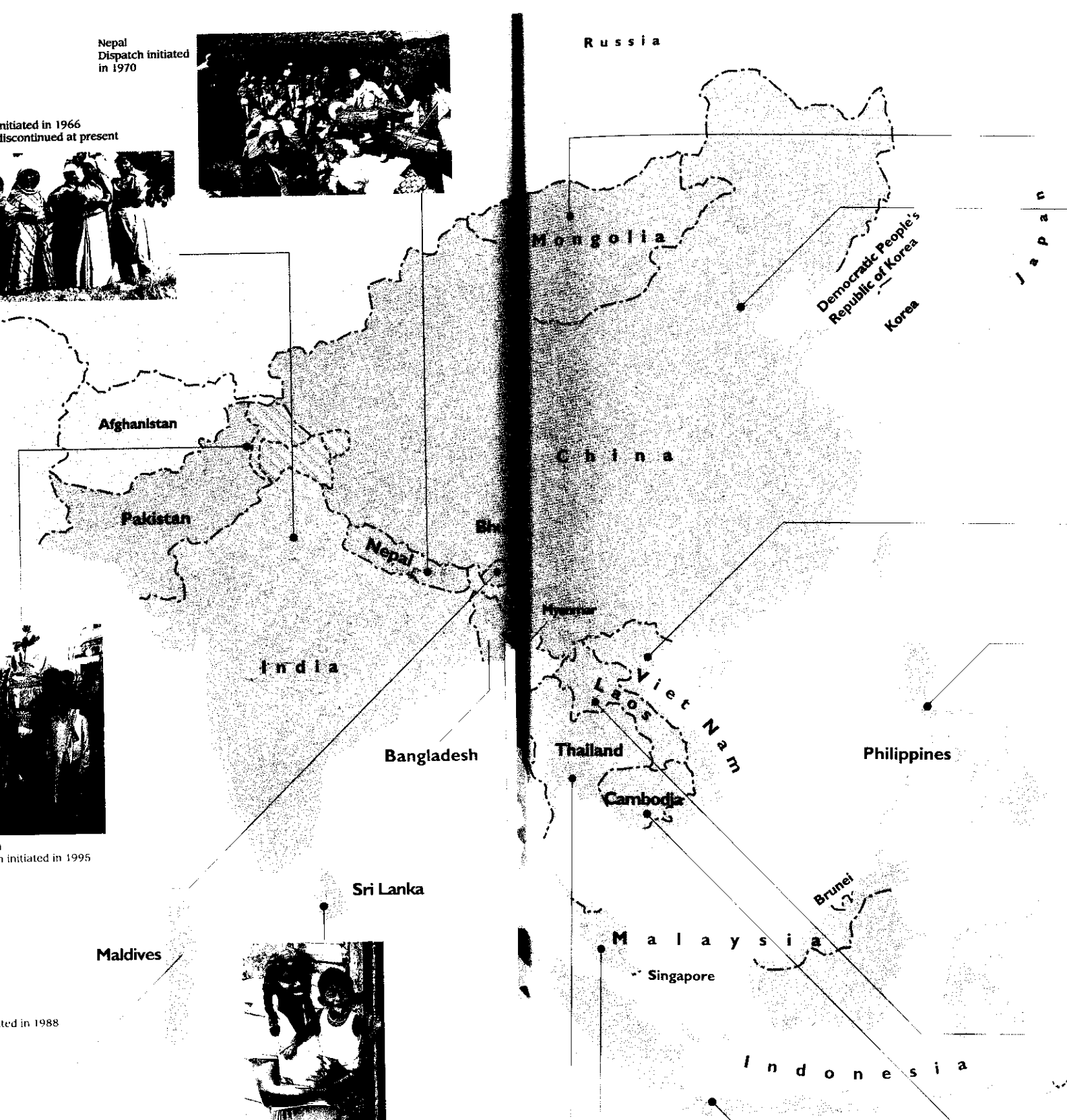
Malaysia  
Dispatch initiated in 1966



Indonesia  
Dispatch initiated in 1988



Cambodia  
Dispatch initiated in 1966



Mongolia  
Dispatch initiated in 1992



China  
Dispatch initiated in 1986



Viet Nam  
Dispatch initiated in 1995



Philippines  
Dispatch initiated in 1966



Laos  
Dispatch initiated in 1965

# Cambodia

## Japan, ASEAN Countries and Cambodia Tripartite Cooperation Project for Reconstruction

The most pressing issue for Cambodia today is the permanent settlement and financial security of repatriated refugees, displaced residents and soldiers dismissed from the army. In 1992, the "Rural Development and Resettlement Project in the Kingdom of Cambodia" has been dubbed the "Tripartite Cooperation Project" for rebuilding Cambodia, combining Japanese funding and technology with ASEAN experience and knowledge.

Under this joint project, teams of Japanese, ASEAN and Cambodian workers tackle specific areas such as income generation, education, public health, primarily in agriculture. The aim is to improve infrastructure in rural villages and develop local areas, thereby encouraging permanent resettlement.

Before each project begins, an action plan is drawn up on the basis of a prior investigation. Personnel are drawn from a wide range of fields, including agriculture, veterinary science and public health.

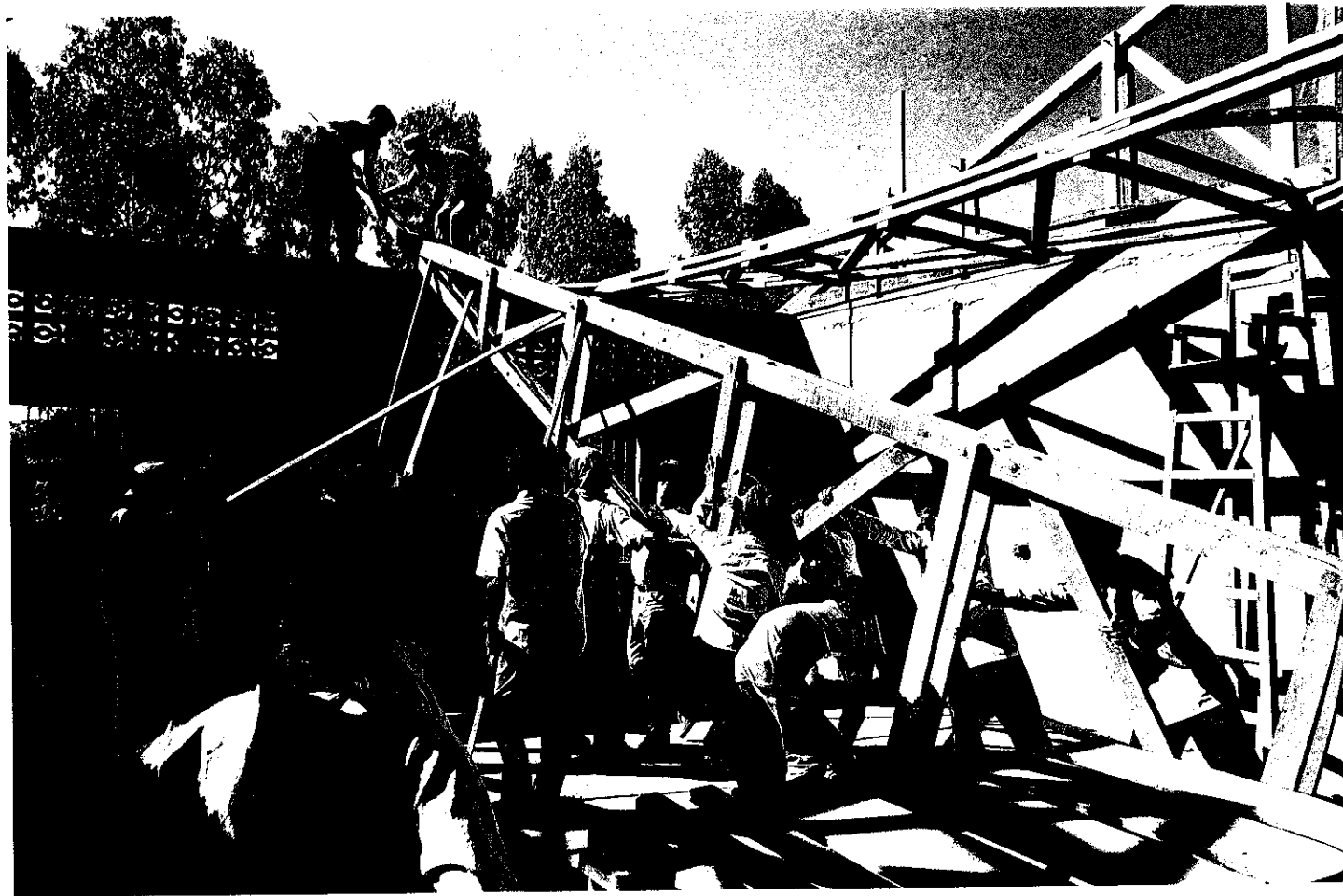


Members of the Tripartite Cooperation Project: volunteers from Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand



The war is finally over. Peace has returned, and with it the water festival, a common celebration in Buddhist countries marking the end of the monsoon season. The main event in the water festival is a three-day canoe race. Participating teams are chosen in pre-selection trials staged throughout the country. Novices to this race, the Japanese who have teamed up with their Cambodian counterparts wear yellow life-jackets.





Technical instructor Akihisa HARAGUCHI is working on a school construction and restoration program. Teachers and students work together with local residents, constructing their very own school buildings entirely by hand.



Catching small fish in a pond of water removed from rice paddies. The fish are sold to passers by.



The Cambodian *rumo*, a very simple and easy form of transport invented by the locals whereby passengers sit on a trailer pulled by a motorbike.



Osamu TANAKA (middle of river on the right), instructor in repairs and administration of agricultural machinery, helping to retrieve his colleague's motorbike that fell into the river earlier in the day.



Nariyoshi ODASHIMA teaches how to use water pumps for rice irrigation. Today some local farmers come to borrow a pump, and he will accompany them back to the fields to explain how it works.



Veterinary doctor Hidetoshi KINOSHITA (left in the photo) studying anthrax, a disease which can spread from cattle to humans and is still causing loss of life in Cambodia. Right: Taking a blood sample to test for anthrax.



Kindergarten teacher Takashi NOBE with elementary school students. The school conducted a study today as part of its efforts to boost literacy rates. He also teaches kindergarten teachers curriculum development, music, handicrafts and game-playing.

Volunteer Shinsho IRAHA teaching hairdressing techniques at an occupational training center. His thorough technical instruction in the characteristics of black Asian hair has already produced 80 graduates in just three months.



Kyoko UENO puts her training in public health to good use in this inoculation program. Vaccinations have dramatically reduced the child mortality rate. The vaccine shown above loses its effect if not refrigerated properly, but refrigeration can be difficult to obtain in tropical regions.

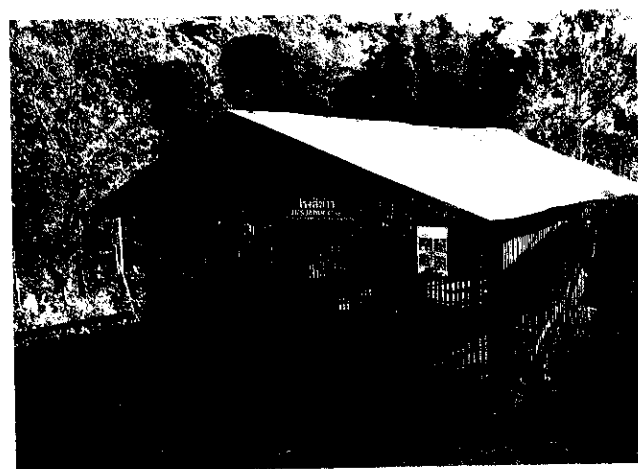
# Thailand

## JOCV volunteers are making their mark in mountain villages where the hilltribes boast their own brand of culture

In the northern highlands of Thailand, the minority peoples have joined with volunteers to help reshape their unique society. Up here, about nine different minority tribes live as they have for centuries. The Hilltribes Welfare and Development Center helps to raise living standards for some 110,000 mountain dwellers in 513 villages spread throughout the region.

Volunteers arriving at the center are dispatched to villages to assist with vegetable growing, animal husbandry or any number of other programs. They work together exchanging information and advice, and meet regularly for joint activities. Their sincerity is welcomed by the people, bringing a warmth and friendliness to the uncomplicated nature of village life.

Though there is still much work to do in eliminating poverty and disease, the strength of the tribes people and the atmosphere of peace make this land seem truly like a home for the soul on Earth.



Above: This rice-polishing mill relieves the women of their physically demanding task of grinding by mortar and pestle.  
Right: villagers working in cabbage fields in northern Thailand. Mountain cabbages grown in the high plains of this region can be sold as far away as Bangkok, providing an important source of cash income.



Vegetable cultivation volunteer Kazuya MIKE helps out with all aspects of village development.  
Left: Several varieties of Japanese wet field rice seedlings have been planted on a trial basis. His lessons have made him a firm favorite in the village.  
Below: Relaxing at the hut he built with help from the villagers for those occasions when he has to sleep over.



Production of tropical fruit trees began as a project of the Royal Family of Thailand. Today, Fumio SAIO is making saplings from cuttings. It will take several years before the trees are fully grown.







Poultry farming is being introduced as a secondary source of cash income for villagers.  
**Above:** The chickens must be vaccinated against contagious diseases, and Makoto UEHARA tours the villages dispensing advice on animal husbandry.  
**Left:** Today he was treated to lunch in the village of the Lahu tribe.  
**Right:** In tribal costume together with two Lahu girls. Dressing like the locals brings a smile to everyone's face.

Volunteer Miyako KONISHI, working on rural development, investigates the market potential of woven cloth and handicrafts in each village. Today she is trying her hand at weaving with the help of the locals.  
**Below left:** Evaluating test products for market potential. Traditional patterns are common. Volunteers also help with marketing.



Volunteers MIKE, KONISHI and Makoto OGUMA taking breakfast in a Karen tribal village. A hearty breakfast is important before embarking on the day's work.

# Bhutan

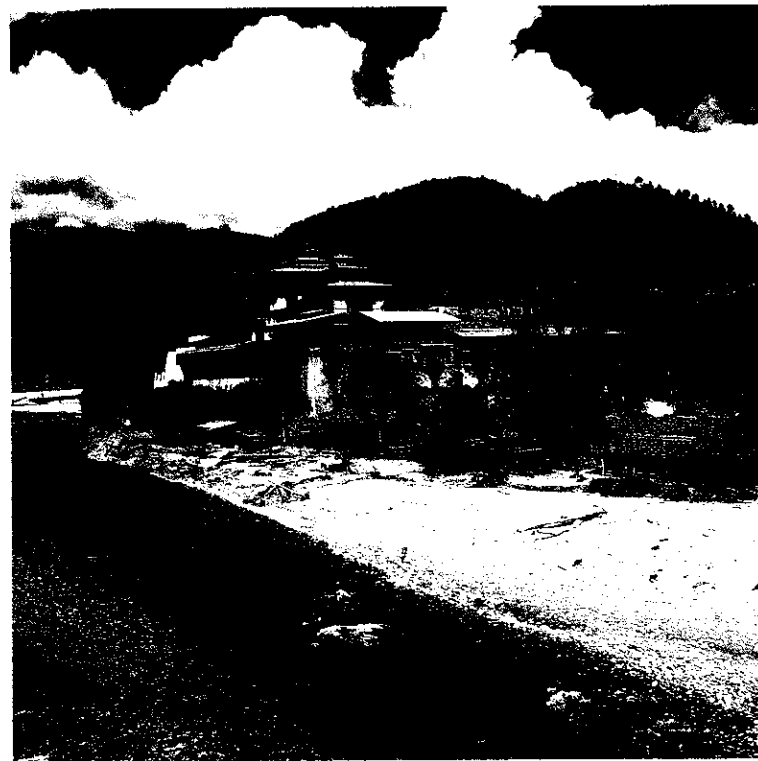
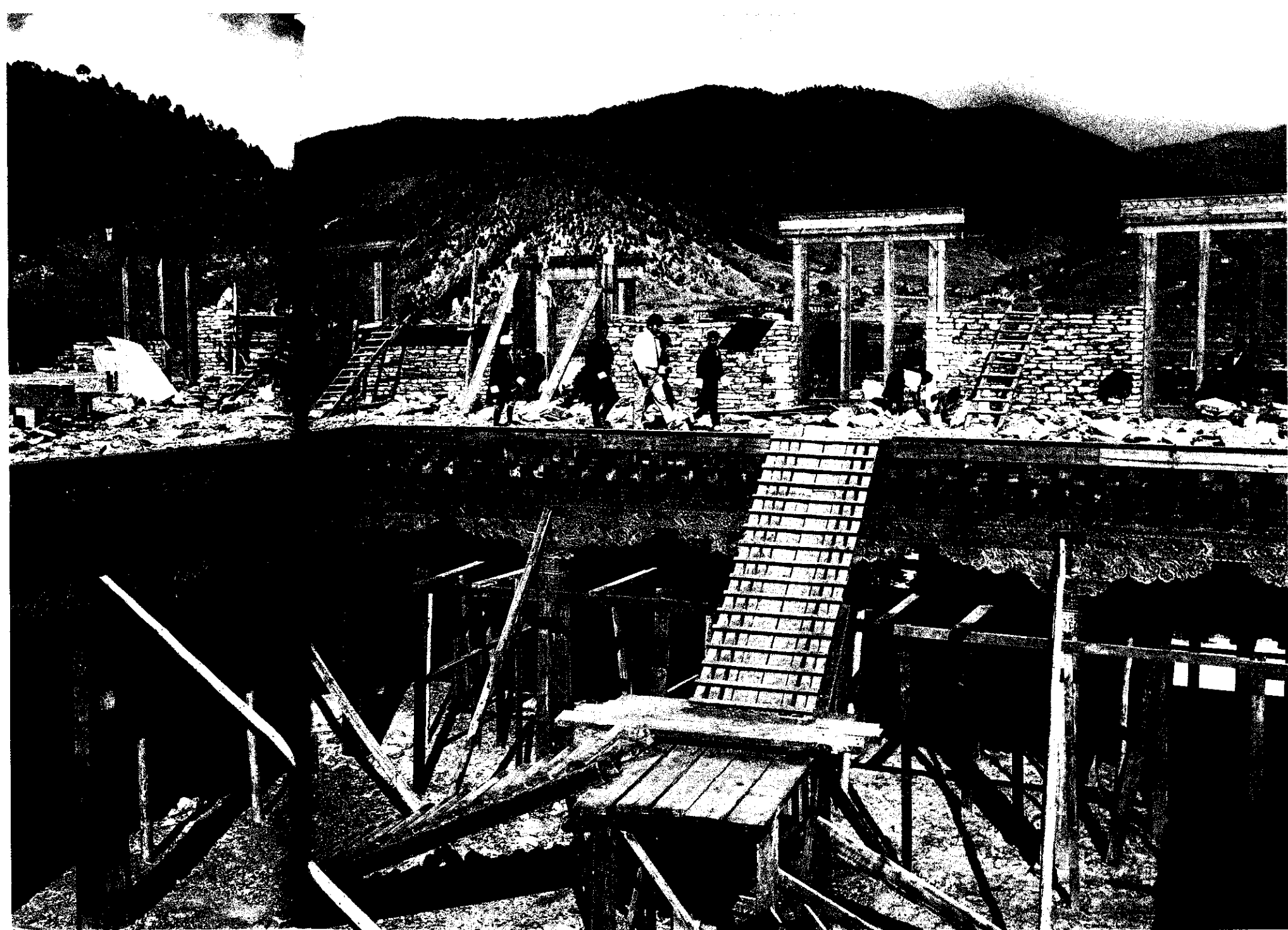
## Restoration of historical relics Education for children Working at the foot of the Himalayas

Long ago, Bhutan used to have two capitals: one for summer and one for winter. Even now, many people choose to escape the cold in the ancient town of Punakha, at the junction of two mighty rivers, the Pochu (father river) and Mochu (mother river). It is here that restoration work is underway on the historical remains of Punakha Castle.

The participation of Japanese building constructors in the restoration of this unique structure brings together modern technology and traditional Bhutanese architecture in a project that tells us something of the courageous history of the people.

At Changankha elementary school in the capital Thimphu, Japanese educational methods are employed in arithmetic classes. The voice of the teacher can be heard reciting times tables to the students.

11th November marks the birthday of the King of Bhutan, and the entire country joins in the celebrations. Bhutan's first outdoor games display was held on this day as part of the physical education program conducted by their volunteer teacher.



### Restoration is largely dependent on manual labor

At the restoration of this dzong (castle), building constructor Shuichi HIRAYAMA is busy rushing to and fro, coordinating 400 workers, discussing restoration work with his Bhutanese counterparts in the wake of flooding, and supervising completion of the Great Hall of the Buddha, which will bring his team close to the half-way mark.

Above: The Punakha dzong at the junction of Pochu and Mochu rivers.



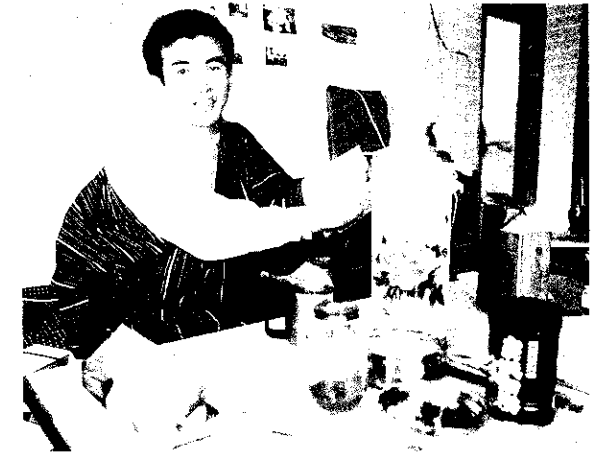
Shuichi is told he looks excellent dressed in "gho" the local tribal dress.

**2 x 2=4!**

Science and mathematics teacher Mitsuaki KOBAYASHI spends 25 hours per week with the friendly and amicable children of Bhutan, helping them memorize their times tables perfectly for improved calculating skills.

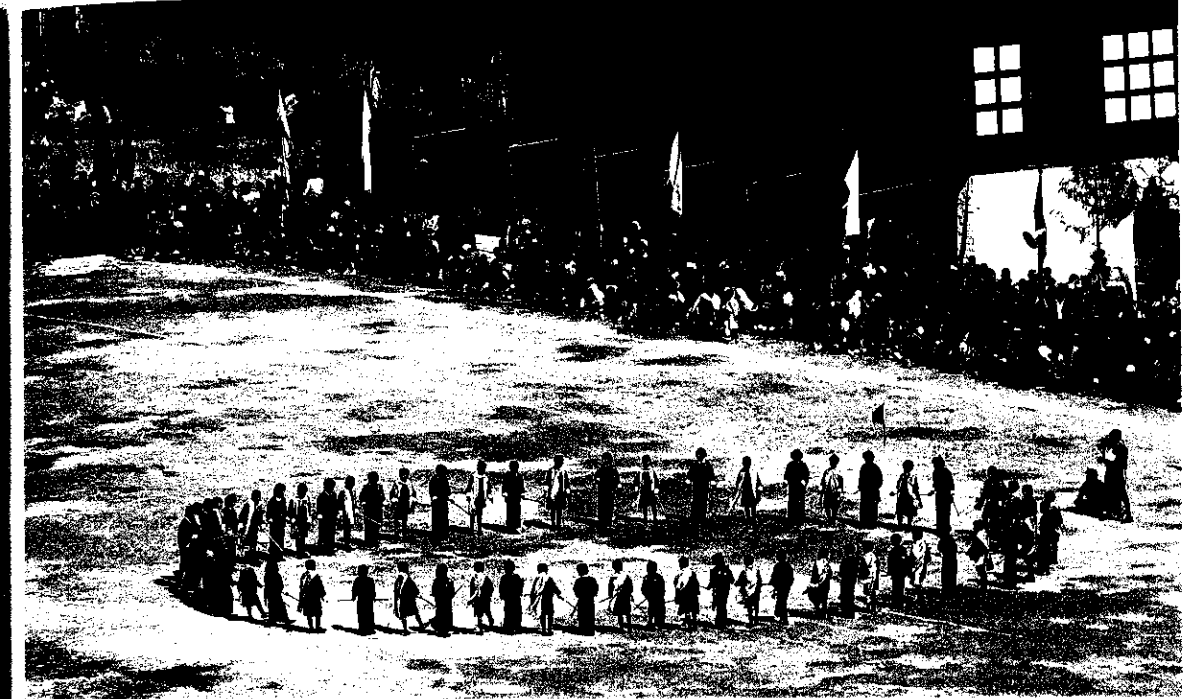
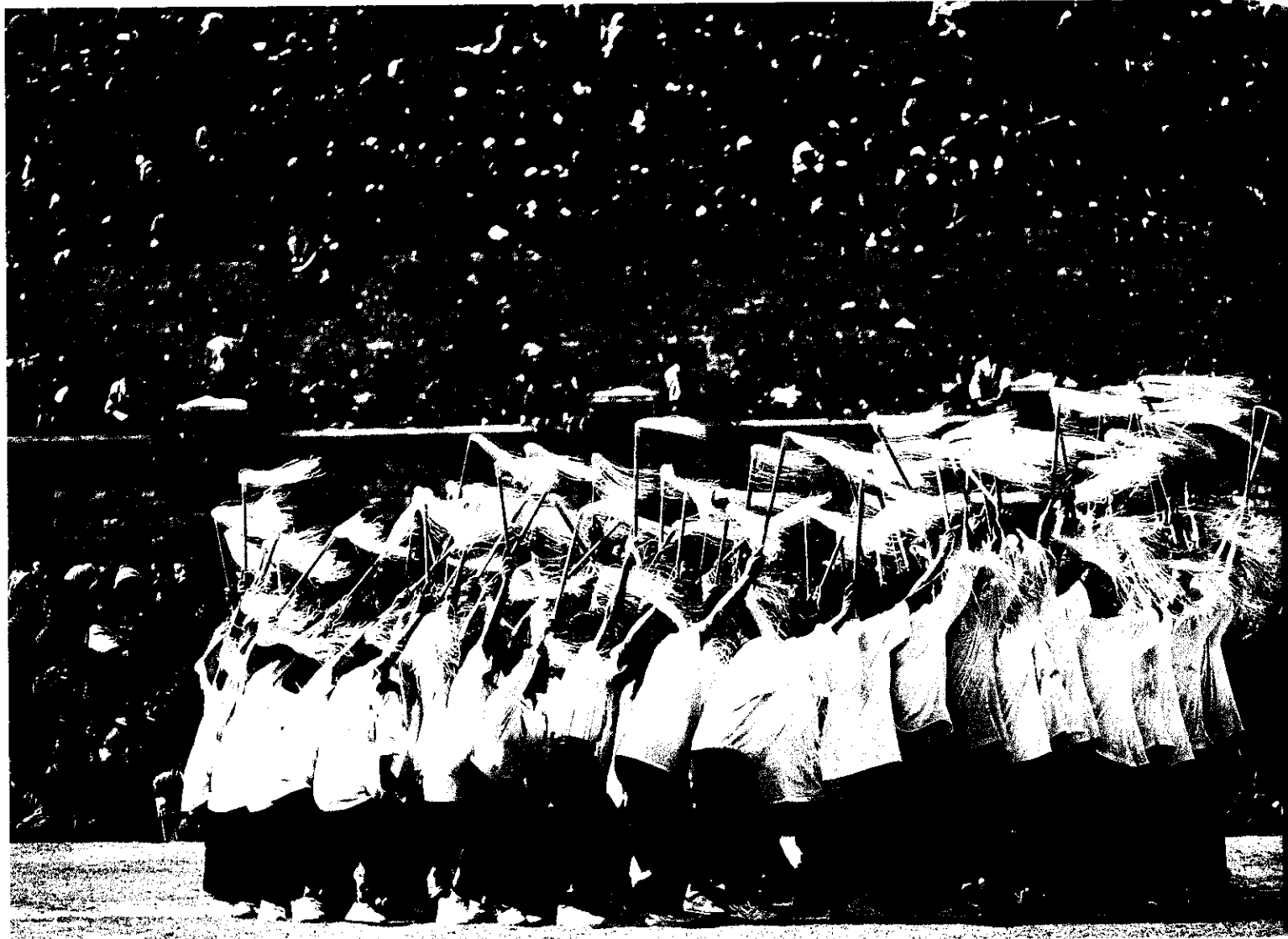
**Right:** With his landlord before the huge family Buddhist altar. The landlord's grandchild is one of Mitsuaki's pupils.

**Next page center:** Surrounded by pupils.  
**Next page below:** Serving meals to the pupils during the annual Children's Day celebration.



Subji Bazar, featuring meat, cheeses, vegetables and chili peppers, the staples of Bhutanese cooking. The volunteers do their shopping here every weekend.  
**Left:** Science and mathematics teacher Satomi IWAMOTO proudly displays her purchases.  
**Right:** Systems engineer Junichi SAKURAI relaxing at home in gho, the local tribal dress.





A traditional dance called the Tashi Labay, performed at the end of all ceremonial celebrations in Bhutan. Tashi Labay means "let's meet again."

Above: Bhutan folk dance performed wearing gho, the tribal dress.  
Below: Women in "kira," a tribal costume, at a local archery contest. The dance cheers on the contestants.

**Only two months until the real thing, and rehearsals seem to be progressing smoothly**

The first outdoor games display, organized by physical education instructor Naoko KINOSHITA, was a huge success. There were so many cheering spectators that it seemed the entire Thimphu population of 30,000 had turned out to watch. Above: During the performance Right: Final training the day before



**A word from the photographer**

**Katsumi YOSHIDA**

How wonderful to be a wanderer  
Free from the shackles of social custom  
Emerging from winter's hibernation  
The spirit of the wild released

Jack London (*The Cry Of The Wild Animals*)

I guess I would call myself a cameraman first and foremost. I try always to maintain steady composure when working. I've met over 500 JOCV volunteers and tried to capture a glimpse of their lives. Some were very open, others not so open; the differences were just like Japan. But the important difference is that they have elected to devote themselves for two years to life in completely different surroundings. My latest assignment for JOCV has taken me to northern Thailand, Bhutan and Cambodia, where I've seen how the volunteers change, losing some of their outer shell and becoming freer and more human again. At first sight, some of these places seem like the end of the Earth. But comparing the simple lifestyles of the volunteers with regimented Japanese society, one soon realizes that the volunteers have rediscovered something of the spirit of the wild animal, free in nature. During 30 years of JOCV operation, the people may have changed but the spirit in each and every volunteer has not. Nor has the true spirit of the JOCV mission altered one bit. I admire those who get out and sweat for the cause, and hope I meet many more like them in the future.





# Middle East

Volunteers are in constant contact with very different lifestyles and customs. They arrive with a mix of hope and uncertainty, ideals and reality, excitement and nervous anticipation, and it must be hard at first to find expression for these conflicting emotions. The first JOCV volunteers in the Middle East were dispatched to Morocco in 1967. Arab society is singularly unique, with its history and social standards modeled on Islamic culture. JOCV volunteers have worked hard to adapt through a combination of patience and wisdom. The fruits of their patient efforts and contributions can now be seen in sporting, educational and other fields. In the future, too, the work of JOCV volunteers will surely add another unique page to the history of this region.



Tunisia  
Dispatch initiated in 1975



Jordan  
Dispatch initiated in 1986



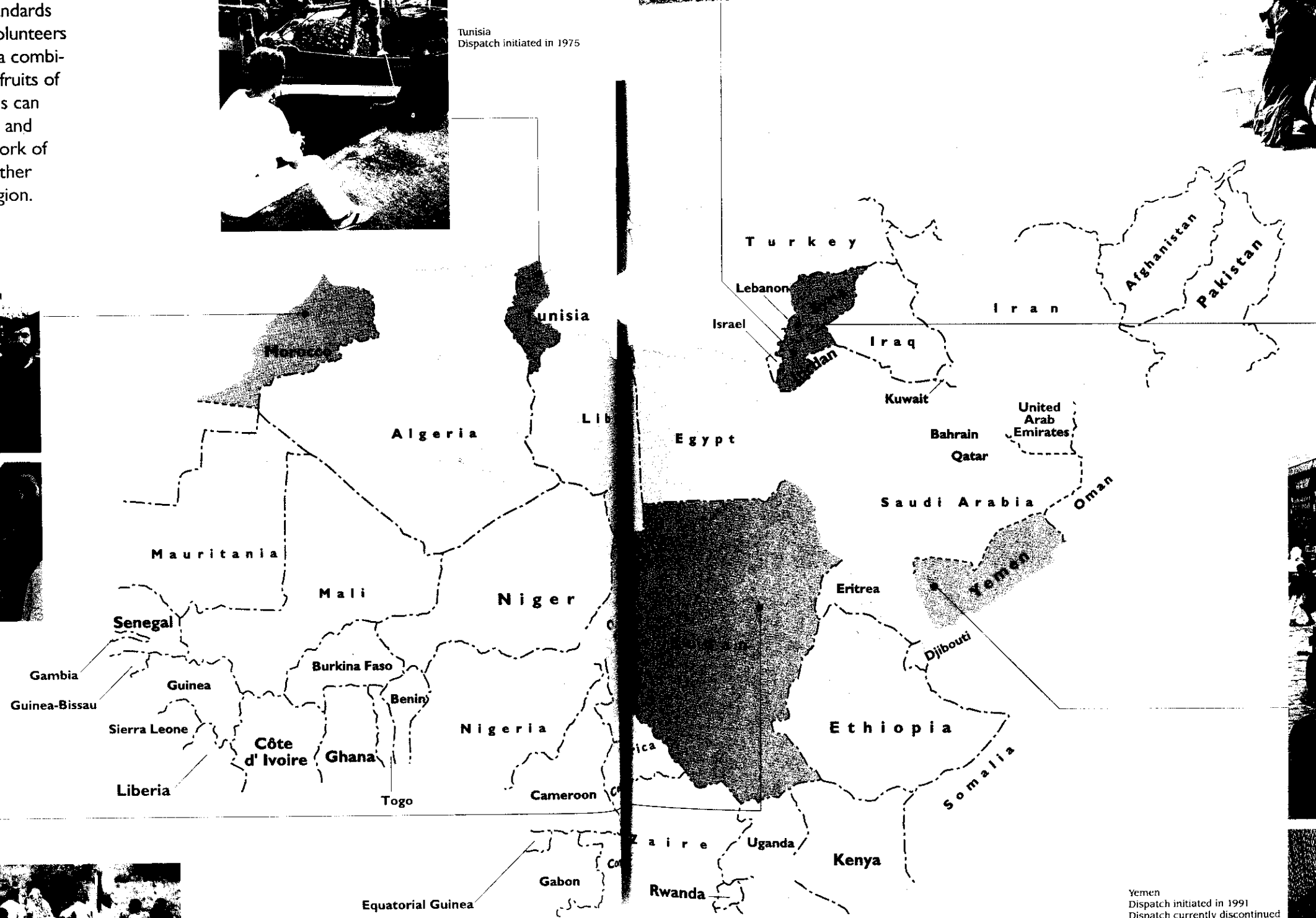
Syria  
Dispatch initiated in 1970



Morocco  
Dispatch initiated in 1967



Sudan  
Dispatch initiated in 1990  
Dispatch currently discontinued



Yemen  
Dispatch initiated in 1991  
Dispatch currently discontinued





# Syria

## The dedication of JOCV volunteers the joys and thrills of sport, the hard work and the excitement

JOCV volunteers are helping bring the joy of sport to the physically disabled, that they may feel the same thrills and sense of excitement as others.

The voices of instructors working out together with their wheelchair-bound students can be heard echoing across the halls. These volunteers have been assigned to the Sports Association for the Disabled, part of the Syria Sports Federation, to promote disabled and train more instructors.

Five times a day, the sound of the Koran rings through the streets. In the midst of such a different environment, the arm in arm link—for instance, between wrestling instructors and their students—is symbolic of the joint achievements of Japan and Syria, and of the strong bonds of friendship that have formed.

“The important thing is to stimulate the senses: to see, hear, sense and touch,” says this volunteer rhythmic gymnastics instructor at Damascus, who seems to blend perfectly into her new environment as she watches her charges intently.

Sporting activities train both mind and body: running, jumping and throwing come together in a dance. In the same way, volunteers and students are bringing joint participation together.



Riseko URASAKI works on strength training and athletics instruction for disabled athletes. Not content with simply helping them to move their bodies, she gives strategies for winning in competition, and also plans to introduce her students to Japanese culture through karate.

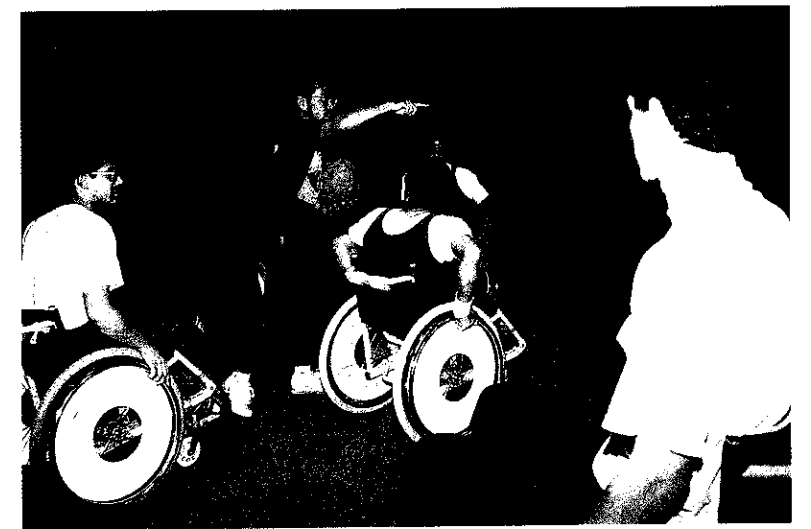


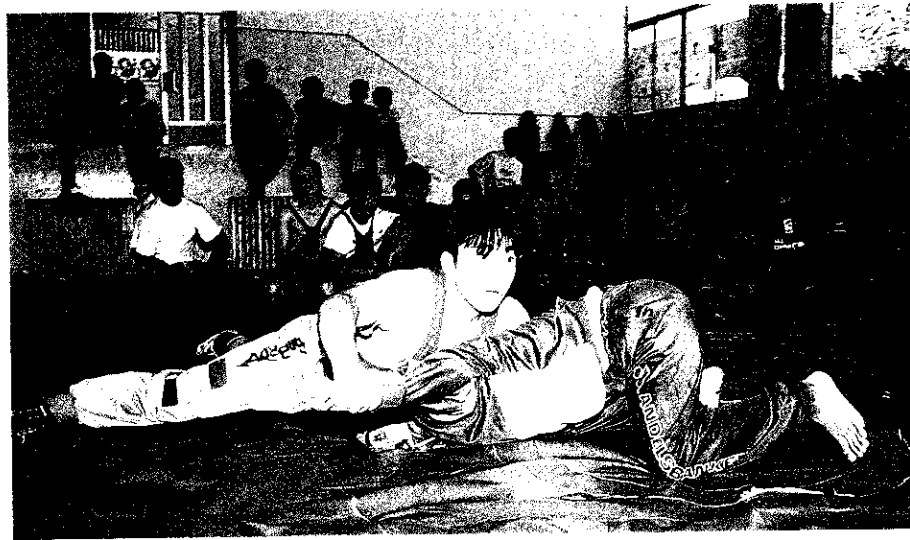
### The essence of wheelchair basketball is in the thrill of a successful shot

The fun and the importance of being part of a team, the hard work and satisfaction of training: this is what makes sport so exciting. Tsutomu TANABE is putting the wheelchair basketball team through its paces again today. “We try to make best use of the facilities we have here, if we need something we improvise.” It’s this sort of hardworking spirit that drives Tsutomu; the desire to do as much as he can with limited resources in order to create opportunities for his students.



At an oasis in the Syrian desert near the Palmira remains. Finding water for the camels is a vital task for nomadic tribes that earn their living from raising camels.





Takeshi KUKIDOME was assigned to coach wrestling, a very popular sport in Syria. He teaches everything from basics to complex strategies, where he pits himself against his students. They have no wrestling shoes, and must train in everyday clothes. But with his help they have already begun to master advanced wrestling techniques.



**I believe that working together with my students is more than just gymnastics training; it gives me a sense of spiritual strength**

Energetic Fumiko YAMAMOTO teaches rhythmic gymnastics to enthusiastic young pupils. "Watching over my cheerful and carefree students at training, I feel that there is so much I can learn from them, rather than the other way around," says Fumiko, who is busy teaching them the basics in preparation for national sports tournaments and even competitions involving all the Arabic countries.



**A word from the photographer**

**2**  
**Shinichi OSAKA**

"Mudareb Yavany?" (Are you a Japanese sports instructor?) A friendly traffic policeman saw me at the roadside and came over to help, in a country town called Raqqqa on the Euphrates river in northern Syria, where I was to call upon volunteers. JOCV has a long history of providing sporting instructors to Syria. Since the first judo and karate trainers arrived in 1972, a total of 78 volunteers have taught 19 different categories of sport over more than 20 years. As a result, the JOCV name is very well known in sporting circles. As local instructors gain confidence and ability, volunteers are moving into new fields such as rhythmic gymnastics and sport for the disabled.

The distinctive Arabian style poses many obstacles to volunteer work, including a fierce pride and unwillingness to take advice from others, and low participation by women in sport for social and religious reasons. But the volunteers remain dedicated. An atmosphere of adversity provides greater opportunity to find happiness.

# Morocco

## Ceramic art and aesthetic beauty Women volunteers help to provide local women with the means to achieve independence

Most countries of the Middle East are heavily influenced by male-dominated Arabian culture, and Morocco is no exception. Yet female volunteers are active here as elsewhere around the world.

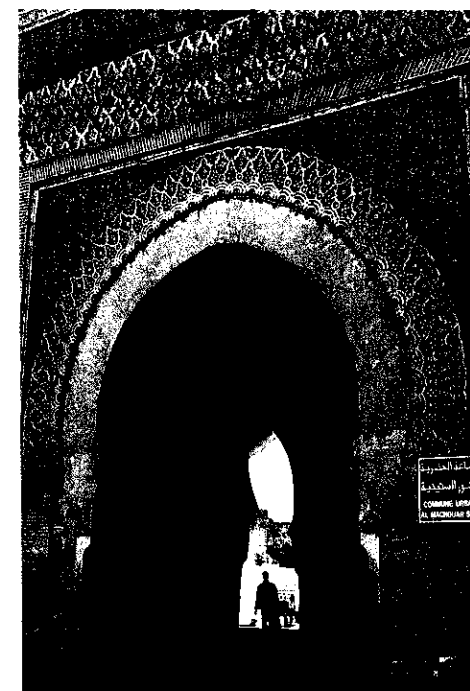
Trained JOCV volunteers are teaching at the Ceramic Arts Department of the School of Traditional Arts in Meknes and the Beauty Department of Mhanach II Women's Occupational Center in Tetouan. The students are easygoing and generous, and very keen to learn.

Training in these occupations will help them to gain a degree of independence from their male-oriented surroundings. Women instructors are specifically requested because they can relate to their female students in a way that men simply could not do in such a society.

The efforts of the JOCV volunteers are already starting to bear fruit in Morocco, a beautiful city where white houses stretch into the distance against a brilliant blue sky.



Mansour gate, in the town of Meknes. Completed in 1732, it is said to be the most impressive cultural relic in northern Africa.



### I hope to take a traveling student exhibition of traditional crafts all around Morocco

Sayuri NISHIMURA teaches ceramic arts at a technical training school in Meknes. Though her techniques contrast with traditional methods, the students are quick to learn, and she hopes to hold an exhibition of their work in the near future.

Previous page: Visiting traditional pottery shops is an important way to find inspiration for new artworks.

Left: Softening clay Morocco-style, by throwing it to the ground from above head height.



**Teaching in Arabian!  
On a crash language course for the sake of her students**

Yumi Ino's lessons in anything and everything to do with beauty are her way of helping to enhance participation by women in society. Student numbers fell at one point, but interest has subsequently grown at a steady pace. Yumi was originally planning to teach in French, but decided to offer the course in Arabic in order to make it easier for students to understand.

Next page below: With her landlord and family. "They're very friendly; they provide a real source of support to me."



With its backdrop of white houses, Tetouan resembles Spain in many ways.





# Africa

In 1960, later dubbed the "Year of Africa," 17 countries declared independence from colonial rule following long-running campaigns for emancipation. The ensuing period was a continuing process of trial and error as African countries strove to rid themselves of remnants of the colonial era. This was the situation that greeted the first JOCV volunteers arriving in Kenya in 1966. Their successors, too, have worked to rebuild the nations of Africa under similarly harsh conditions. Volunteers are also making important contributions over wider areas through projects such as the Green Promotion Project, and saving lives by providing medical care. Throughout this vast, natural continent, JOCV volunteers, both individuals and groups, are tackling fields ranging from education and culture to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.



Senegal  
Dispatch initiated in 1980



Rwanda  
Dispatch initiated in 1987  
Dispatch discontinued at present



Kenya  
Dispatch initiated in 1966



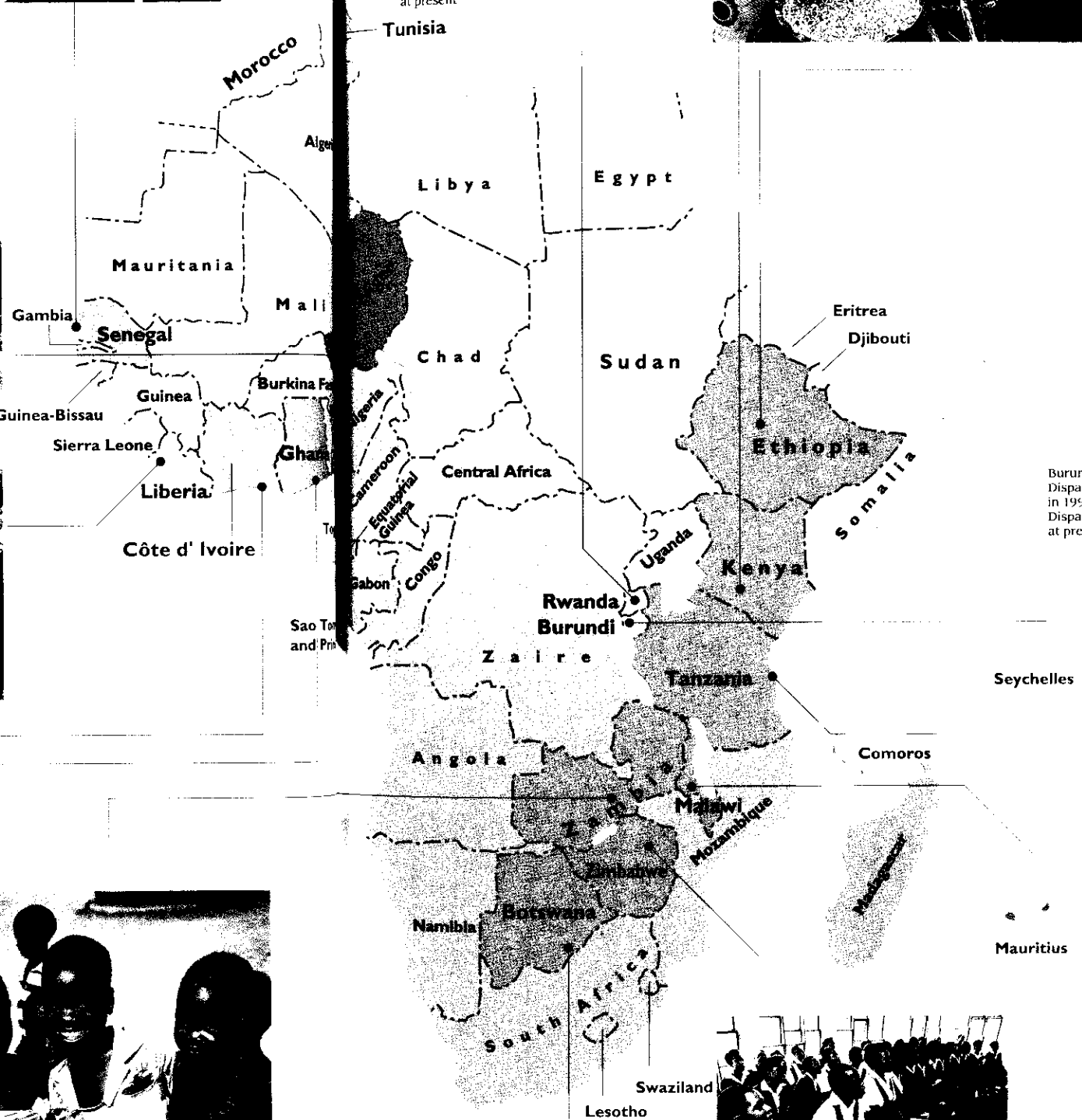
Ethiopia  
Dispatch initiated in 1972



Niger  
Dispatch initiated in 1984



Liberia  
Dispatch initiated in 1979  
Dispatch discontinued at present



Burundi  
Dispatch initiated in 1992  
Dispatch discontinued at present



Tanzania  
Dispatch initiated in 1967



Cote d'Ivoire  
Dispatch initiated in 1991



Ghana  
Dispatch initiated in 1977



Zambia  
Dispatch initiated in 1970



Zimbabwe  
Dispatch initiated in 1989



Botswana  
Dispatch initiated in 1992



Malawi  
Dispatch initiated in 1971

## Tanzania

### Ilonga Mother & Child Welfare Promotion Project in Kilosa, founded from a desire to save young lives

The first JOCV volunteer nurses, dispatched in 1988, served as forerunners to the Ilonga Mother & Child Welfare Promotion Project in Kilosa, which began in 1992. The six-member project team now has nurses, dietitians and volunteers in other fields to provide technical training and advice for staff at the Center and medical care for malnourished children. The team also conducts clinical examinations of children in surrounding areas and advises mothers on dietary requirements. Other tasks include providing after-care for discharged children to prevent subsequent malnutrition problems, investigating causes of child malnutrition, educating the general public on health issues and working to improve environmental health.

Living conditions in Africa can be harsh, as evidenced by the extremely high mortality rate for children below five years of age. The efforts of JOCV volunteers enable more children to enjoy the life that is rightfully theirs.



Public health nursing Naomi YOSHINAGA interviews mothers at the Center and in the nearby area. Next page: Naomi is seen here chatting during a break between interviews conducted outdoors. This sort of contact is also important for promoting a friendly image of the Center.

At a meeting with local personnel to discuss work currently underway and plan future activities. Close communication between the two sides is vital for success. On the right is project leader Hiroyuki MAEGAWA, a senior JOCV volunteer.





Above: Children playing with tires in the tranquil main square of Ilonga. Right: Volunteers here depend mainly on motor-bikes to get around.



Dietitian Masako KASAI, Senior Volunteer (Vegetable Cultivation) Hiroyuki MAEGAWA walk from village to village together with Tanzanian staff fielding questions and giving advice on dietary improvements. Previous page above: Today they are distributing health education posters and leaflets for mothers.



Volunteer Terutaka NIIDE, working in vegetable cultivation, backs up medical advice from dietary and health volunteers with basic, practical advice on how to grow vegetables for better diet. Above: Teaching the villagers new cultivation skills.



Above: With Masai villagers during a free moment. Right: Public health nursing Mieko TAKAHASHI makes instant friends with everybody she meets. Below: A herd of cows belonging to Masai villagers.





# Ghana

## Whether in the factory or out in the open, JOCV volunteers work closely with the people of Ghana

In Ghana, where the work of microbiologist Professor Hideyo NOGUCHI some 70 years earlier is still widely respected, Japanese volunteers are today very active.

As the number of automobiles continues to rise, automotive technology is becoming increasingly important. Volunteers are involved in the fundamental first step: training in maintenance and repair techniques, as well as everything from fundamental knowledge through to using parts and tools.

Medical science saves lives, and modern information technology and computerized health administration is fulfilling an increasingly important role. In this area where sickness is common, systems engineers are working to extend the computer network in the face of a never-ending struggle against the harsh Harmattan dust carried by seasonal winds from the Sahara desert during the dry season.

Most milk in Ghana is imported. Volunteers working in dairy husbandry and production are helping to realize the dream of a self-supporting domestic dairy industry to provide milk for children throughout the country.



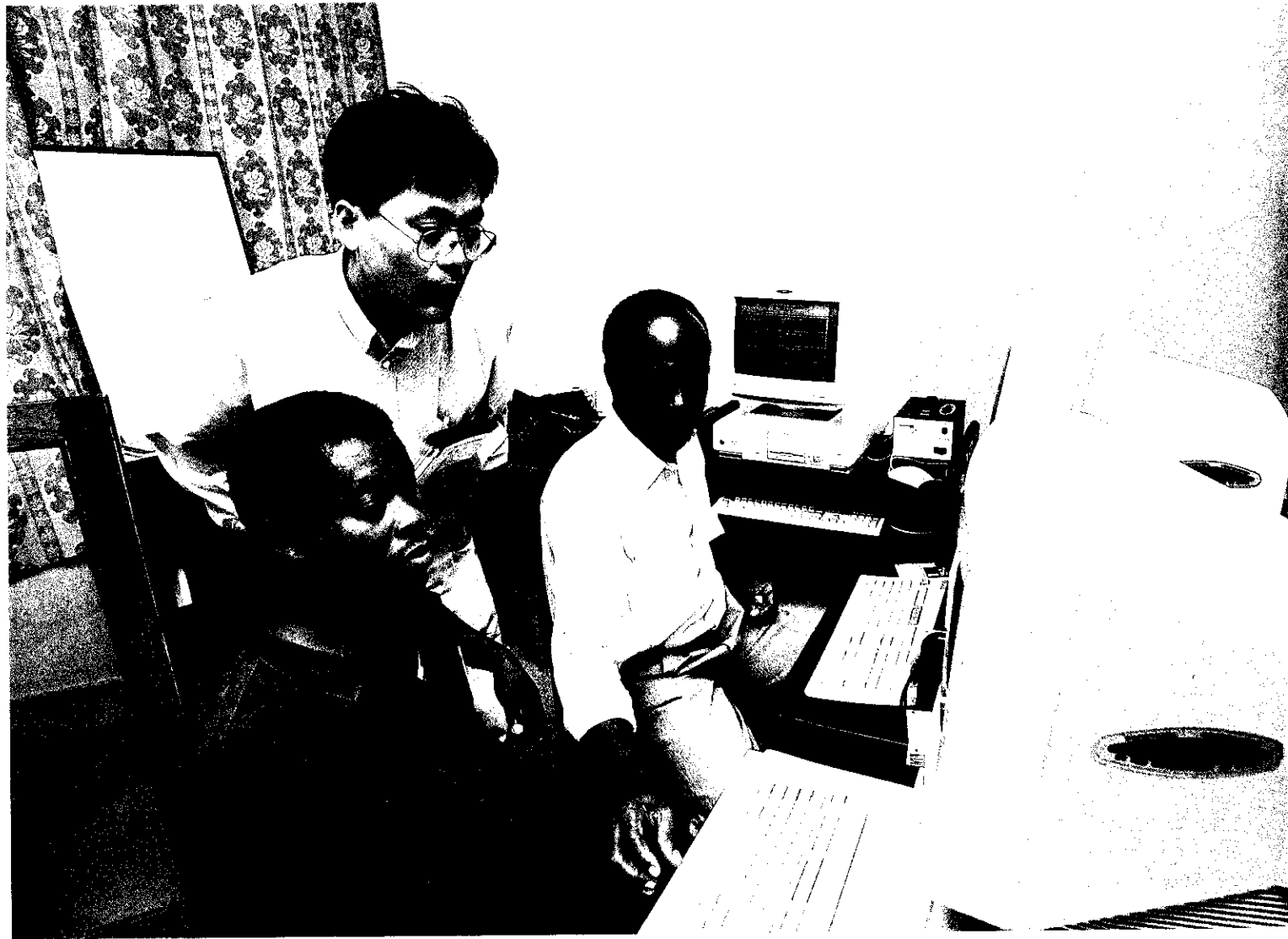
Villagers near the factory where Nobuhiko IOKAWA has been assigned.



**"What they need more than anything is to experience things for themselves"**

An automotive specialist in the maintenance and repair factory, Nobuhiko IOKAWA has to cope with frequent shortages of tools and parts. Sometimes he makes his own, and sometimes he improvises with what he has. "Momo-san," as he is affectionately known, has earned respect and admiration for his ability to apply himself to any and every task. He first explains his approach, then shows his pupils how it is done, and lastly gets them to try it out so that they can master the technique themselves.





**The Harmattan seasonal winds bring ants and mold as well as dust  
Developing computer systems in the face of these enemies brings a certain sense of satisfaction**

Systems engineer Masaharu MURAKAMI is currently conducting a complete overhaul of the medical administration system. The computers are the same as those used in Japan, but in a completely different environment they are proving much more difficult to master. Here, Masaharu explains how programs are compiled using a program he wrote himself. "Sometimes it can be hard trying to explain procedures that you have to develop yourself from scratch, but it's definitely worth it in the end"

At Korle-Bu Hospital, where Masaharu works, stands a memorial bust of Professor NOGUCHI, who died while still actively involved in his research. A memorial building in the hospital grounds proudly displays NOGUCHI's microscope, chair and other items, and a small Japanese garden has been built nearby.



**Even on his days off, he often goes to check on the cows**

Milk is not part of the traditional diet in Ghana. Higher milk production is an important step in the process of improving dietary habits. Kenshin SAMEJIMA is busy raising milk cattle at Amrahia Dairy Farm, one of the few places in the country where fresh milk is available. Kenshin's plan is ambitious: to boost milk production and reduce the current dependence on imports by introducing dairy farming to the entire country.

**Above left:** Buying kenkey for lunch. A big favorite of workers, the sour-tasting kenkey is made by fermenting corn powder.  
**Below:** Checking the milk first thing in the morning by carefully analyzing color and other aspects of appearance.

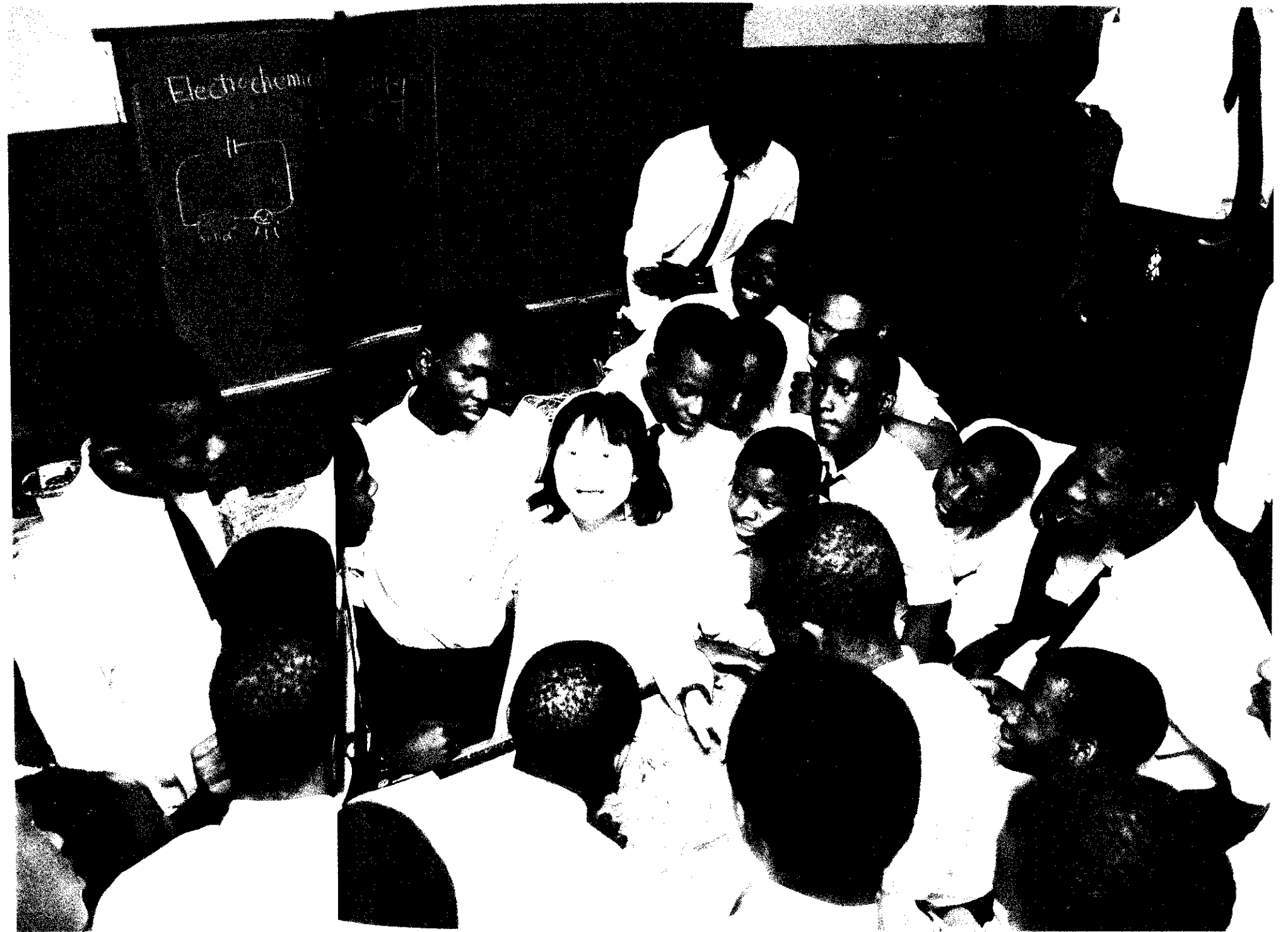


# Zambia

## Teaching cheerfully at school Playing with animals in the park JOCV volunteers perfectly at home in Zambia

The town of Serenje is 400 kilometers north-east of the capital Lusaka, six or seven hours by car. Here, a JOCV science and mathematics teacher is working at the chemistry department of Serenje Technical Secondary School for Boys. When she first arrived, the school was closed due to a water shortage. Her first job was therefore to get laboratory classrooms and equipment, a vital part of scientific study, back into working order. The school still suffers from a chronic lack of materials, but she makes up for this through a combination of enthusiasm and innovation.

A further 300 kilometers north-east of Serenje lies the town of Mfuwe, where ecological survey specialists are assisting local researchers with their surveys of wild animals. Studies include tracking the movements of elephant herds from their droppings, monitoring seasonal movements of lions and establishing a hippopotamus count. JOCV volunteers are hard at work in this landscape of wide open spaces that, although changing, still represents a natural environment that most Japanese can only dream about.



**You can actually see the Orion stars from the southern hemisphere, not like in Japan!**

Chicko WATANABE is always cheerful, whether teaching in the classrooms or relaxing outdoors. Her honest disposition, a vital component of volunteer work, has made her a favorite with not just the students but also many people in the village and the surrounding region. **Previous page above:** A delighted Chicko is treated to a home-cooked Zambian meal by one of her colleagues. **Previous page below:** Posing with a straw hat and children from the village, in the fields near school. Japanese children have few opportunities to play with natural grass and flowers.



Today Chieko enjoying a picnic with her friends and close colleagues at the nearby Kundalila waterfalls. It's their first visit to the waterfall and riding on the truck was obviously a great deal of fun.  
 Right: This map of Africa on the wall at Chieko's home shows how large Africa is.



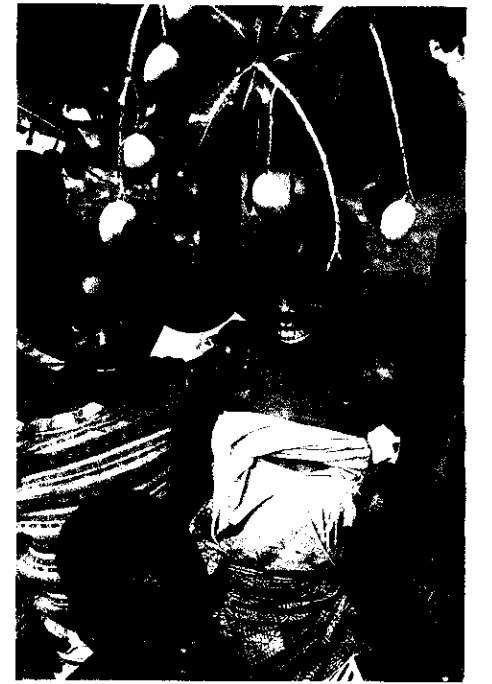
A word from the photographer

Mitsuya WATANABE

At the time of my visit, the monsoon was about to start in Africa. I found a range of reactions among the JOCV volunteers. One had only just been treated for malaria but spoke with renewed vigor of the joy of African life. Another was captivated by the beauty of African art. Without exception, the volunteers were doing their utmost to fulfill the expectations of the people. I heard from those who had overcome great difficulties to emerge smiling; earnest teachers talking about the future prospects for their students; and those who felt the joy of finally seeing their work bear fruit. All were busy right up until their return to Japan, and each will take back unique memories of this vast, wild land.

As successive generations of JOCV volunteers take over from their predecessors, each leaves the mark of his or her own personal style, to be redefined in turn by the next to arrive. Several days spent observing the volunteers in Africa left me with the impression of a Jacaranda flower in bloom, or a Baobab tree, with its roots firmly in the earth and arms outstretched to the heavens. Their youthful vitality shines in the midst of this vast land and its people, who carry on the work begun by volunteers with enthusiasm. So many different volunteers with so many stories of African experience to take home.

My sincere thanks to those who shared with me their energy and their stories. Keep up the good work!



Children playing under a mango tree in Mfuwe.



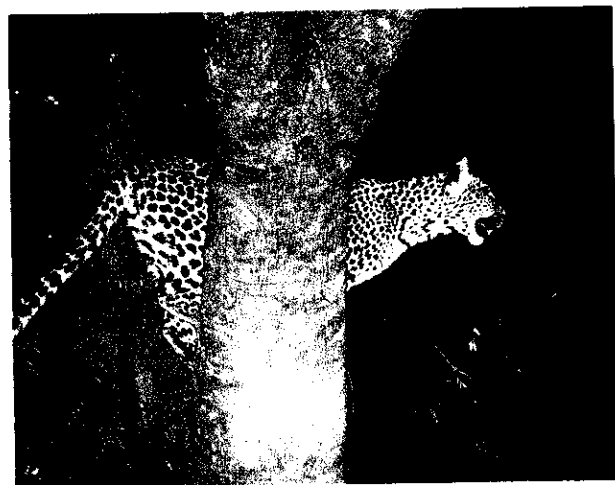
An array of fresh foods at a market in Mfuwe.





**Growing larger every day  
Back to nature as soon as possible**

"The climate and the work may be hard, but living here among the wild animals and wonderful environment is pure happiness for me. I love to relax by the river and watch the birds flying far away in the distance," says Hiroshi IMAE.  
 Above: Hiroshi and his co-worker discover the carcass of a puku, only recently killed, and take some samples for scientific investigation.  
 Below: On a night safari he comes upon a leopard eating impala in a tree.  
 Next page above: Fastening a rope around the neck of a buffalo trapped in the mud. A hunter is required during this extremely dangerous operation in case anything goes wrong.  
 Next page below: Playing with a stray elephant being cared for at the lodge.



# Central and South America

Central and South America have received Japanese immigrants for more than a hundred years. The first JOCV volunteers came to El Salvador in 1968, starting a long and fruitful presence by JOCV which has brought genuine progress to the entire region. While the types of contribution and assistance have changed, the level has steadily progressed; projects currently underway include an organic agriculture project in Costa Rica, the Project to Boost Vegetable Consumption in Paraguay, and the work of teaching groups such as the NGO "Children's Home" in the Dominican Republic. In all cases, volunteers are doing their best to answer the hopes and desires of the people.

Mexico  
Dispatch initiated in 1993



Guatemala  
Dispatch initiated in 1989



El Salvador  
Dispatch initiated in 1968



Nicaragua  
Dispatch initiated in 1991



Honduras  
Dispatch initiated in 1976



Costa Rica  
Dispatch initiated in 1974



Panama  
Dispatch initiated in 1991



Ecuador  
Dispatch initiated in 1991



Peru  
Dispatch initiated in 1980  
Dispatch discontinued at present



Bolivia  
Dispatch initiated in 1978



Paraguay  
Dispatch initiated in 1978



Colombia  
Dispatch initiated in 1985



Jamaica  
Dispatch initiated in 1989



Saint Lucia  
Dispatch initiated in 1995



Dominican Republic  
Dispatch initiated in 1985

Mexico

United States of America

Guatemala

Belize

Honduras

El Salvador

Nicaragua

Costa Rica

Panama

Jamaica

Cuba

Colombia

Venezuela

Ecuador

Peru

Bolivia

Paraguay

Chile

Argentina

Uruguay

Brazil

French Guiana

Guyana

Suriname

Trinidad and Tobago

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Barbados

Antigua and Barbuda

Dominica

Haiti

Saint Christopher and Nevis

Saint Lucia

Dominican Republic

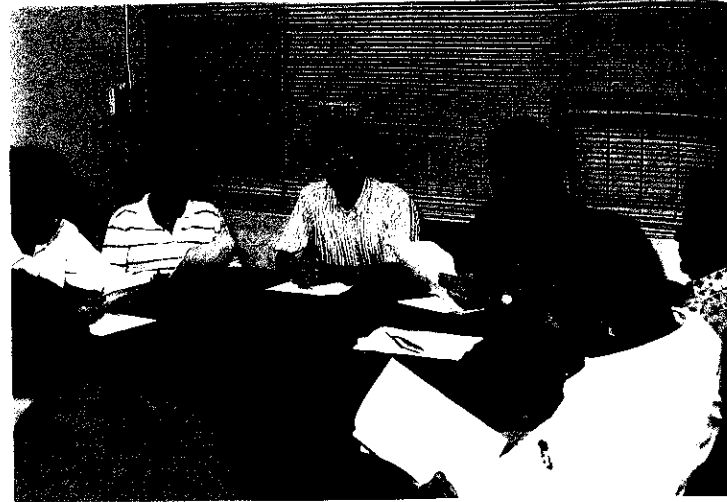
## Costa Rica

### The enormously significant Organic Agriculture Project will help save the farming industry

The agricultural industry in Costa Rica is confronted by two major social issues: river pollution caused by agricultural wastes generated by coffee and sugarcane processing, and indiscriminate use of agricultural chemicals and chemical fertilizers by poorly educated farmers. These have caused declining soil fertility, surface soil loss, disease and pest damage, higher production costs, poor development of farm produce, and associated health problems for rural people and consumers.

The Organic Agriculture Project began in 1993 with the dispatch of a group of JOCV volunteers to the Department of Agriculture at the University of Costa Rica. The project has attracted widespread interest in Costa Rica, prompting a number of inquiries and requests for instruction from farmers and others in the agriculture industry.

The Project is continuing to explore new areas of potential with a view to meeting the hopes and expectations of the people of Costa Rica.



Senior JOCV Volunteer Shogo SASAKI is heavily involved with the Organic Agriculture Project. Today will be another busy day. Above: Meetings are held every three months with managers of the four model districts in Costa Rica. After the meeting finishes there is still much work ahead: mulching compost and making organic compost in the compost barn, and explaining how to plant green pepper, tomato and cucumber seedlings in the hothouse.

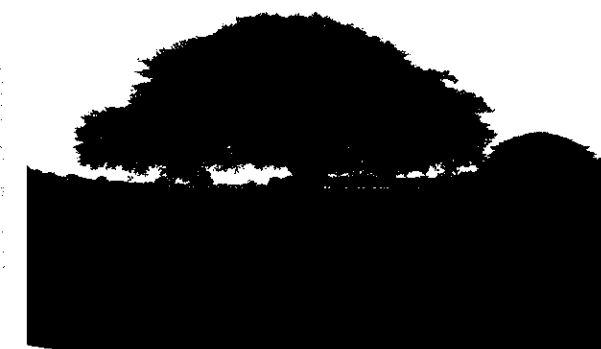




Yoshinari IDE has been assigned as a village development extension officer to a branch of the Matambu Indigena Association of small-scale farmers. At the moment he is building a compost barn together with his landlord, modeled on the one used in the Organic Agriculture Project. This will enable the locals to make their own bocashi compost. Above: Sowing red bean seeds. Right: Lunch tastes especially good after that hard work!



Soil fertilizer volunteer Akira YAMADA is another member of the Organic Agriculture Project. Here he examines corn with local villagers. Although a durable plant, corn is actually vulnerable to a large number of diseases. Right: Together with villagers, investigating the condition of bocashi organic fertilizer in the compost barn. In addition to this task, Akira is kept busy taking soil samples for analysis and making a booklet on fertilizer use for dairy farmers.



The impressive Guanacaste, national tree of Costa Rica.



## —Dominican Republic—

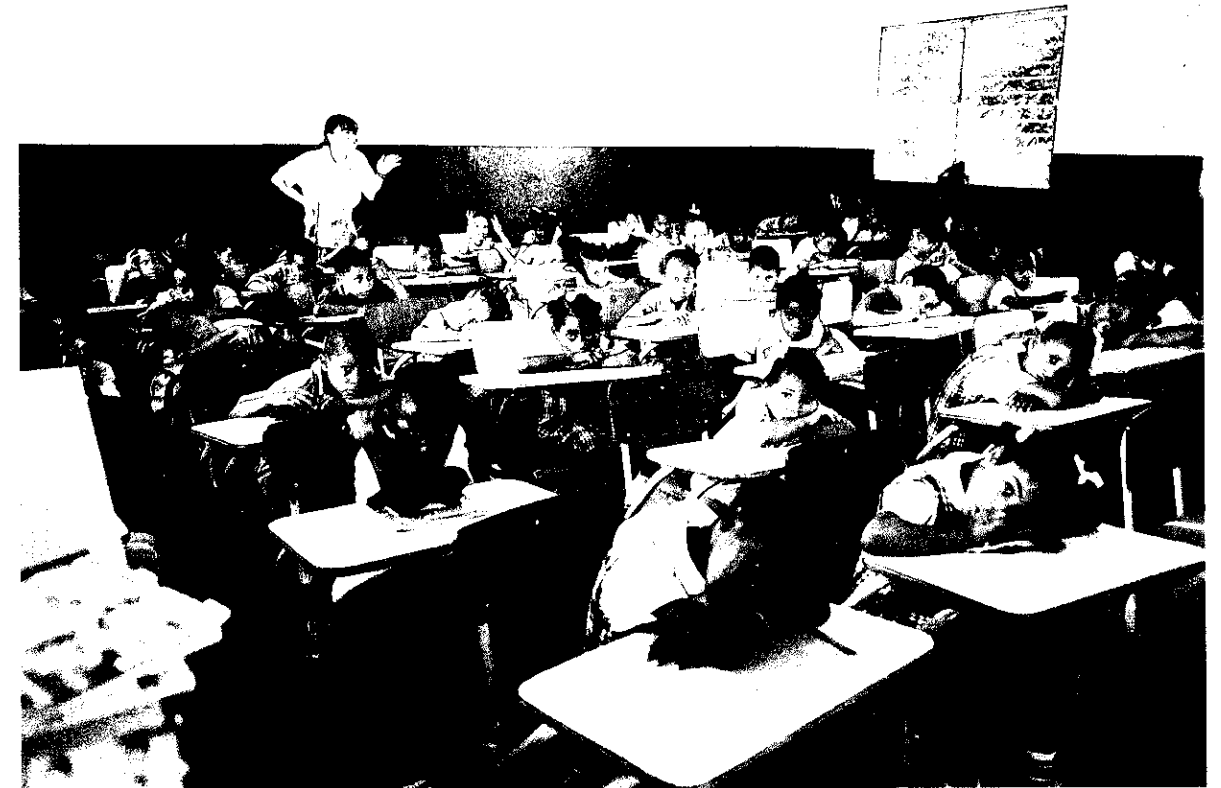
### What is that child's name? How many children are here altogether? Just another day at the Children's Home

There is no physical education instruction at the elementary school. The first step is to build the necessary facilities.

Most JOCV volunteers work as public servants of the country in which they are stationed. In the Dominican Republic, however, volunteers are dispatched to an NGO called the Eastern Charity Association. The Association runs the Children's Home, which includes a kindergarten, elementary school, school for deaf and dumb children and an occupational training center. JOCV volunteers show considerable determination in the face of shortages of basic teaching materials. They have had to start virtually from scratch due to the poor quality and quantity of both materials and curriculum. In spite of these hardships, they are keenly watching over the development of the children, who even now run delightedly around the impressive new sports ground complete with basketball court.



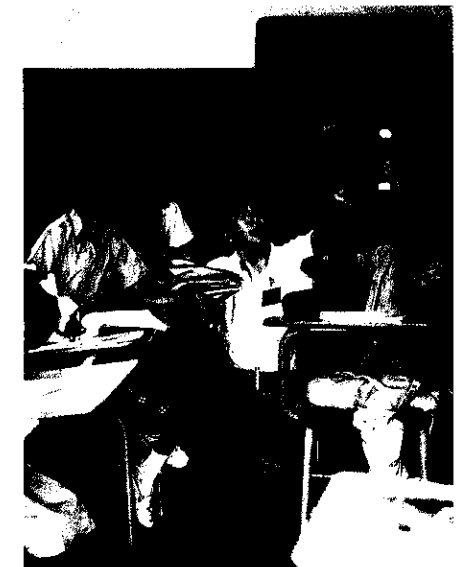
The cheerful voice of Michiyo SUZUKI can be heard in the Children's Home today. She is in charge of infants up to one year old. Her work goes well beyond the initial task of kindergarten teaching: she also monitors the health of her charges and gives the other kindergarten teachers tips on handling infants, making toys, teaching techniques and liaison with families. Michiyo maintains close relations with each and every child, and her love and care shows on their faces.



Miyuki MATSUDA takes a class of 60 first graders that includes slower children repeating the year and older children with no prior education at all. "I want them to be able to determine clearly those things that are important to them, to know their own strengths, and to feel the thrill and excitement of learning and the joy of having their own dreams," says Miyuki, who has had a significant impact on her pupils.



Miyuki TSUTSUI keeping an eye on the children while advising the other teachers in the garden of the Children's Home. Schools in the Dominican Republic do not provide classes in art or music, so her first task is to design activities that impress upon her colleagues the importance of creativity, the joy of song and the fun of playing. These can then be incorporated into teaching methods.



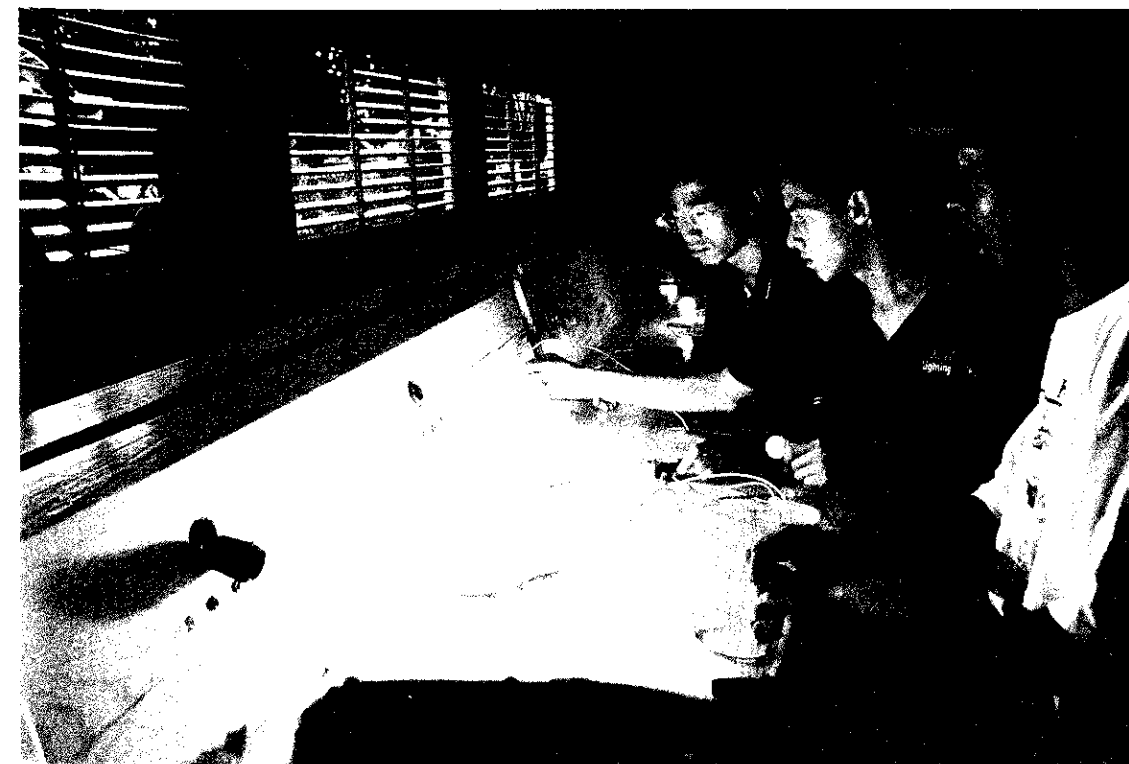
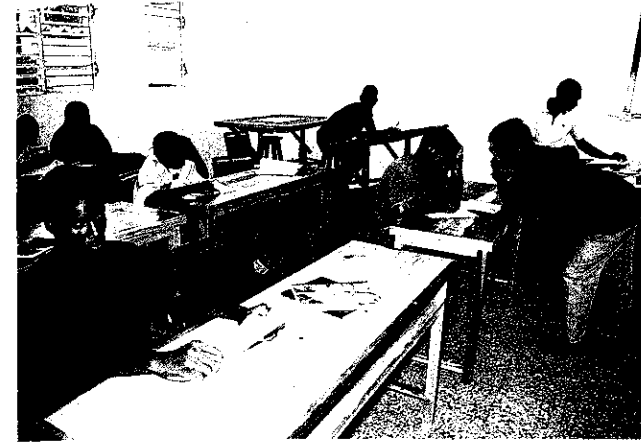
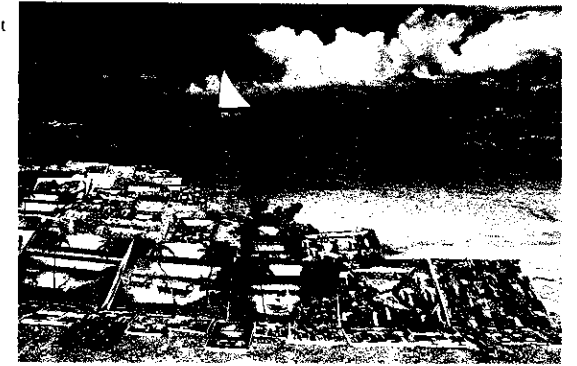


Takanori SASAKI conducts speech training at the Children's Home deaf and dumb school. Since children do not use hearing aids in this country, language instruction is very much a heart-to-heart affair. "When our eyes meet and I can see their determination, it is such a magical feeling" he says. The Home now provides regular physical education classes thanks to a new sporting facility built two years ago, and all day long the cheerful voices of the children can be heard ringing through the grounds.



Atsushi SONODA helps with electrical engineer training at the Home's vocational center. First he shows his pupils how to wire a bulb and make it light up, then he has them test their skills by trying it out themselves. They can still ask questions if they wish, so it's a very sympathetic form of testing.

A souvenir picture of the coastline propped up in front of the Vallalbe coast of the Caribbean Sea



A word from the photographer

Yoshihisa YAMADA

The volunteers I met in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Paraguay were all in high spirits, and the assignment went well, particularly in Paraguay, the last stop on my visit. Paraguay is a simple, honest country. You can't help being touched by the country folk and their infinite kindness. It was a joy to be in such wonderful surroundings, sipping *mate* tea while I worked. The Paraguayans are enormously receptive to visitors; far from material civilization but so happy and friendly. The experience brought home to me the real significance of being alive: through kindness to others, love of animals and an effort to work in harmony with one other, we can form true spiritual bonds, and by doing so, make our planet a wonderful place for all. Money may not be able to buy much, but Paraguay showed me something better. Even now I can still hear the friendly call, "Would you like another cup of *mate* tea?"

# Paraguay

## High expectations from all quarters for agricultural development and nutritional awareness under the Project to Boost Vegetable Consumption

Launched in Paraguay in 1992 by JOCV volunteers specializing in home arts and vegetable cultivation, the Project to Boost Vegetable Consumption teaches locals the importance of vegetables, the benefits they bring and how they can be prepared. The traditional Paraguayan diet revolves around meat dishes; vegetables are relative newcomers, and have yet to take hold in ordinary households, especially in rural areas. Nutritional awareness is low, and the preventative effects of vegetables are not well understood.

In light of rising interest among the general public on nutrition and health issues, vegetables are set to become a stable food product in the future, and to provide a valuable export crop for the country. Capitalizing on the appearance of vegetables in Paraguay will also contribute to the farming industry and promote nutritional awareness, in turn enhancing the living and health standards of the people.

The number of dietary instruction classes increases every year. More recently, the classes have been combined with health checks by nursing staff to provide a more comprehensive service. The Project has entered a new and exciting phase.



Yoko FUJIKAKE explains how to cook with cucumbers, white radish and green vegetables, watched intently by the women of the village, who are very interested in trying out new ways of cooking. Slowly but surely, the Project to Boost Vegetable Consumption is helping the villagers to learn new recipes and use them at home. People are also starting to grow their own vegetables when unavailable at the market.  
Previous page above: Buying fresh vegetables at Oviedo market for use in class.  
Above: Teaching knitting to Dominga, her favorite pupil.



Group health checks are conducted in conjunction with classes on vegetable consumption in farming communities to provide an overall approach to boosting living standards. These constitute major events in village life, and are attended by adults and children alike, all dressed in their finest. Advice is provided on diet, prevention of high blood pressure and public health matters.  
 Left: Enjoying lunch at an Alpa recital. (Alpa = Paraguayan harp)  
 Below: Kennichi TOYOMARU patiently explaining cucumber farming to villagers from Guavira.



Health checks are provided in conjunction with the project.  
 Above: Villagers from Yuty queue in front of the medical center.  
 Right: Susumu KITANO measuring blood pressure.  
 Above left: Hiroki TAKAI taking height measurements.



A rostrada known as the parrot's beak.



# Oceania

Many countries in Oceania consist entirely of islands. Volunteer activity began with the dispatch of volunteers to Western Samoa in 1972. Dispatches were initially limited to a small number of experienced volunteers, who were required to investigate potential areas for future cooperation while performing their duties. The emphasis now has shifted to the use of trained specialists in accordance with specific requirements. Assistance to these island countries, formerly focused on the ocean-based industries, has been expanded to include land-based agriculture and civil engineering projects. For instance, one research project looked at sources of cash income that utilize the environment, while in another region, volunteers helped to build a footbridge for the local people. These are but a fraction of the work done by JOCV volunteers in Oceania, helping to preserve the kind of lifestyle that earns it a deserved reputation as an island paradise.



Micronesia  
Dispatch initiated in 1989



Micronesia

Indonesia Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands

Australia

Papua New Guinea  
Dispatch initiated in 1980



Solomon Islands  
Dispatch initiated in 1979



Marshall Islands

Marshall Islands  
Dispatch initiated in 1991



Fiji  
Dispatch initiated in 1983

Nauru

T i r i b a t i

Tuvalu

Western Samoa

Vanuatu

Fiji

Tonga



Western Samoa  
Dispatch initiated in 1972



Tonga  
Dispatch initiated in 1973



Vanuatu  
Dispatch initiated in 1988

# Tonga

## An island nation in the middle of the beautiful Pacific JOCV volunteers in a land of shell fishing where the abacus is used for counting

Tonga is situated in the southern Pacific Ocean. A Japanese volunteer dispatched to Tonga to investigate the potential for shellfish cultivation was captivated by Tonga and the pace of work, and before he knew it his four-year term had expired. His painstaking efforts have already paid off, providing this beautiful island country with a new industry and a shining example of how volunteers can team up successfully with locals.

The Japanese abacus was introduced to Tonga about 30 years ago, when the King, who was skilled in mathematics, first taught it to Tongan children. Japanese abacus classes are now part of the elementary school curriculum. A JOCV volunteer is assigned to teacher training schools specifically for abacus training. Four times a year he tours elementary schools throughout the country, taking in all the remote islands. The initial problem, a shortage of the abacuses themselves, was solved when a Japanese radio station ran an appeal campaign, demonstrating how the private sector can play an equally important role in promoting international goodwill.



### Bursting with pride over his four-year contribution

Masayuki KUME has been working at the Vava'u office of the Tongan Fisheries Ministry, conducting research and investigations on the feasibility of shellfish cultivation. With his term about to expire, Masayuki says that the happiest moment of all came when the cultivation experiments finally produced shellfish. He speaks the local tongue fluently when working, but takes more time with his native Japanese, suggesting a fully relaxed and comfortable disposition.



**Take good care of your Japanese abacus!**

"The best part of the job is seeing how much the kids enjoy using the abacus," says Takeshi YOSHIDA, an instructor at the Tongan Teacher's College who is today visiting an elementary school to teach students directly. "Next year I hope to be able to visit more schools and see more children," he adds.

**Previous page above:** With pupils at the Japanese abacus competition, an event that combines fun with learning for both children and teachers.

**Previous page center:** Discussing work with colleague Mr. 'Ofa, his "father" in Tonga.

**A word from the photographer**

**5**

**Koji SATO**

This assignment took me to Fiji and Tonga, islands of perpetual summer situated in the middle of the south Pacific. In both countries I was struck by the peaceful, safe atmosphere and the generosity of the people, true to the image of relaxed life in the south Pacific. The hard-working volunteers I met clearly felt supported by the warmth and kindness of the local people.

I met a specialist in shellfish cultivation who had extended his term to four years, which was already drawing to a close. He proudly described his work as having been "definitely well worth it, in spite of all the time and effort taken in experiments, research and endless trial and error."

A civil engineering builder described how he is "surrounded by smiling children every time I come to work in a village, making my job a real pleasure. The friendliness of the people is wonderful."

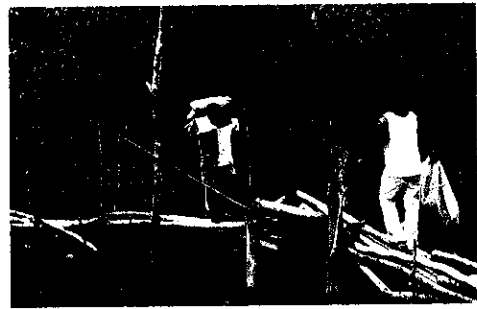
The volunteers want to share time with the local people in this idyllic atmosphere, and also to achieve worthwhile results during their stay. All agree that they have learnt more here than they have taught. Often I think to myself of how they are probably gathering again tonight with the villagers to share yangona (kava) late into the evening. The thought brings back memories of the south Pacific heat and the smell of the tide.



## JOCV volunteers are building bridges for the people to save untold kilometers and hours of walking

For many years, the villagers had dreamt of a bridge leading directly to the elementary school and hospital in the town on the opposite bank of the river. The bridge would have to be strong enough to withstand the torrential rains and hurricanes common to the region. Previous makeshift bridges had been washed away as the river rose in the monsoon season, or simply submerged in the water.

Fiji's efforts to introduce foreign technology and promote cultural exchange could well transform it into the hub of the south Pacific. At the same time, a small bridge in a remote village can open up a whole new future for the local populace. Volunteer civil engineering builders have erected many such bridges to link villages with one another, Japan with Fiji, and Fiji with the world.



Above: The meke, a traditional Fijian dance.  
Left: The array of fresh fruits at the local market.

### The children run after me, shouting "Kuma, Kuma!" It brightens up my every day

Civil engineer Masataka FUJIKUMA has already constructed five bridges, including the Naikawangga footbridge begun by his predecessor. A long cherished dream for the local people, this footbridge is currently the longest in Fiji. The elementary school and hospital, previously accessible only by boat, are now just a quick walk away. Even now, the entire village turns out to greet him warmly when he visits.

Below left: Crossing the new bridge with some local children.

Below right: At a "kava" welcoming ceremony. The drink kava (shown center) is made by crushing the dried roots of a type of pepper tree and dissolving them in water.



### Friendship among villagers is a sacred part of Fijian life

Civil engineer Seiki OTSUKA always gets a warm reception from the village of Korovou, where a bridge built with his help now proudly stands. Today he enjoys a meal prepared by the village women.





**Fijian people are big, welcoming and very friendly**

The water from this well has too much calcium for drinking purposes. Civil engineer Hiroki SONODA is helping install six kilometers of piping and a water tank to hold water from a natural dam in the river nearby. The tank will serve 50 houses in the village, which up till now have had to rely on their own tanks during the dry season.



**Referees are welcome in Fiji, a top-class rugby nation**

Takeshi FUJIWARA teaches Electrical Instruments at the FIT BA school run by the Ministry of Education, Women, Culture, Science and Technology. As a result of his tireless efforts, the classrooms now boast a better range of equipment than engineering high schools in Japan. Takeshi also utilizes his experience as a rugby trainer by acting as referee for the Fiji Rugby Association. He has even been on television during the international championships, making him a well-known face throughout the country.



**"I often get invited to lunch by co-workers on the weekends"**

Keiichi MURAKAMI takes measurements for construction of a new water tank. "I never used to cook at home. Now, although I'm often invited out on the weekends, I also like to try out my own recipes."

# Eastern Europe

The world is changing rapidly, and the Eastern European countries have been forced to make political changes. The first JOCV volunteers appeared in Hungary in 1992 in the midst of this change. In spite of a relatively short history of JOCV involvement in this region, volunteers are required to contribute more than their expertise, for Eastern European people are extremely interested in Japanese society, history, customs and culture. Consequently, in contrast to other regions, Eastern Europe dispatches include instructors in Japanese martial arts such as judo and kendo, Japanese language teachers and other volunteers to explain directly our unique culture. JOCV volunteers now have a new added role: to act as a bridge for exchange between Eastern Europe and Japan.



Hungary  
Dispatch initiated in 1992



Bulgaria  
Dispatch initiated in 1993



Poland  
Dispatch initiated in 1993



# Bulgaria

## JOCV volunteers are new to Eastern Europe but interest in Japanese culture is already strong

Veliko Tarnovo is a university town of population 60,000. Language learning is popular in Bulgaria, and Japanese especially so. Japanese language courses were first offered at the university in October 1993. Although JOCV has a relatively short history of involvement here, the use of Japanese in class brings the volunteers that much closer to their students, who are very determined and quick to learn, mastering the basic phonetic alphabet of hiragana within one year.

Volunteers teach Japanese history and culture in addition to language skills. There are now two Japanese language education projects: one is for Japanese language textbook purchases by the Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition, and the other is a new library complex in the university which doubles as a language laboratory and Japanese culture center. These projects have special significance in terms of cultural exchange between Japan and Europe run by the Japan Foundation.

Bulgaria is facing a hard struggle to shake itself free of the socialist past. Supplies are scarce and the inflation rate continues to rise. Shopping is not always easy for the volunteers either. In the midst of major change, though, Japanese is gaining popularity among the students.



The town of Veliko Tarnovo has many areas of old houses.



### Japanese history and culture as well as language Teaching Japanese at the University of Veliko Tarnovo

Previous page below left: Kanako KAWASAKI takes 14 hours of first- and second-grade students per week.

Previous page below right: The university break begins in July, but Kanako is kept busy with end-of-term administrative work, a Bulgarian language course for foreign teachers during August and preparations for the coming semester in September. She prepares lessons at home during the evenings. Japanese language teacher Takako YOSHIKAWA appears at far left.

Above: When she has a spare moment, Kanako likes to go outside and chat with the students. Left: Buying food in town.



The Alexander Nevsky Memorial Cathedral in Sofia.

A word from the photographer

6  
Takeyoshi TANUMA

My strongest impression of Bulgaria and Hungary is of smiling faces and bright clothes in the streets. Although I had traveled to Eastern Europe many times before, this was my first time following the transition to democracy, and the contrast was striking.

Many of the people are clearly at a loss in their first encounter with democracy. Where previously it was enough just to follow orders, now they have to go and find work for themselves. Those with talent now have a chance to earn good money, while those who miss the boat will be relegated to the ranks of the unemployed. Freedom has its price.

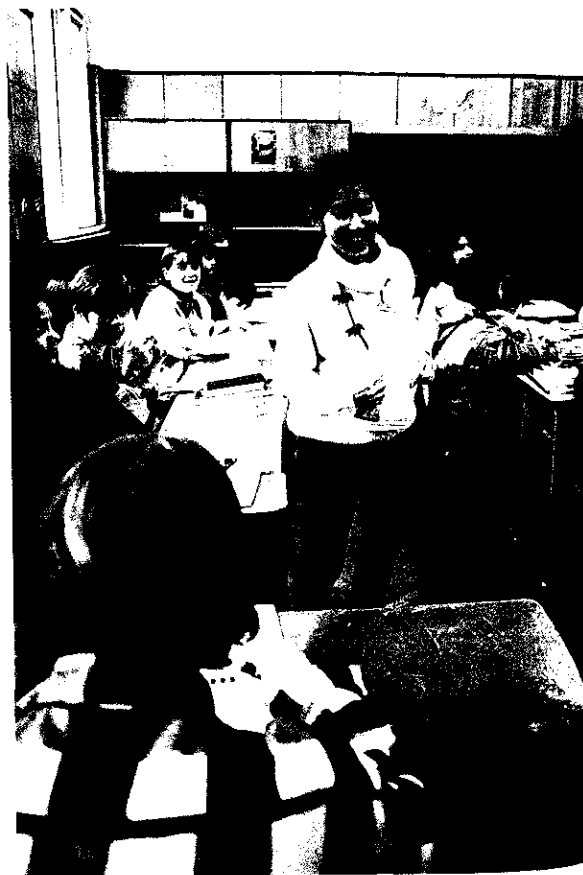
JOCV volunteers have been there helping from the outset. I was filled with admiration for the ability of these young, hard-working Japanese to adapt to life in a new and rapidly changing environment.

Unlike developing countries, JOCV involvement in Eastern Europe is a relatively recent development, and many of the volunteers are language teachers or kendo or judo instructors. I met a Japanese language teacher who takes 21 hours per week at a Bulgarian secondary school. The students learn fast, and enjoy the assistance provided by their Japanese teacher.

As the students gain an accurate impression of Japan through their language study, the young Japanese teachers get to experience the culture and lifestyle of Eastern Europe first-hand. No doubt there will be many more volunteers following in their footsteps as new needs arise. This one-step-at-a-time approach surely represents the true essence of international exchange.



Taeko SAKAI during a class at the center for oriental language and culture at Sofia University. First-year university students are quick to learn, and Taeko knows that if she slows down for just a moment, they'll be at her with more difficult questions!



Aya NISHIOKA teaches Japanese at the 18th School "William Gladstone" in Sofia, where students attend five to six hours of classes each day from Monday through Friday. The first year of schooling has an especially demanding curriculum to ensure rapid progress from very early on.



The students at the 18th School "William Gladstone" in Sofia gave volunteer Yukari TAKAHASHI a present on her birthday.



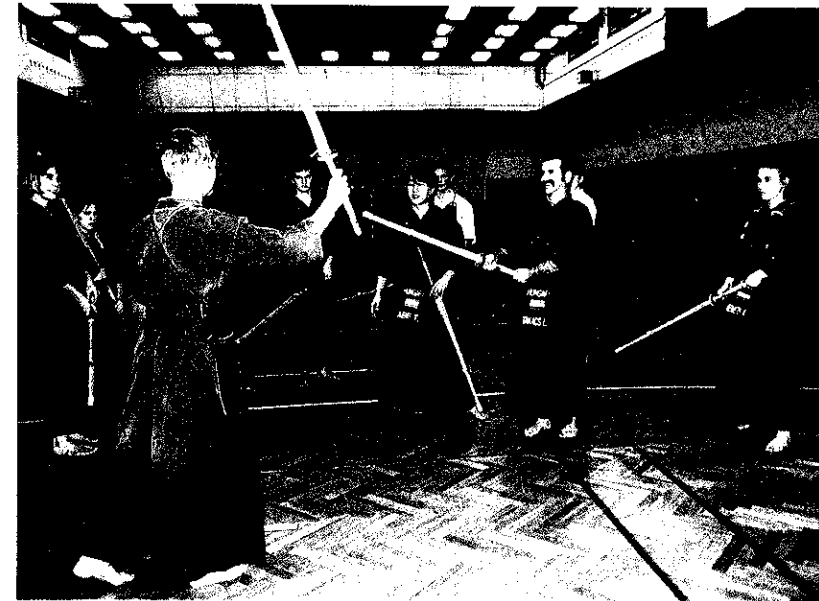
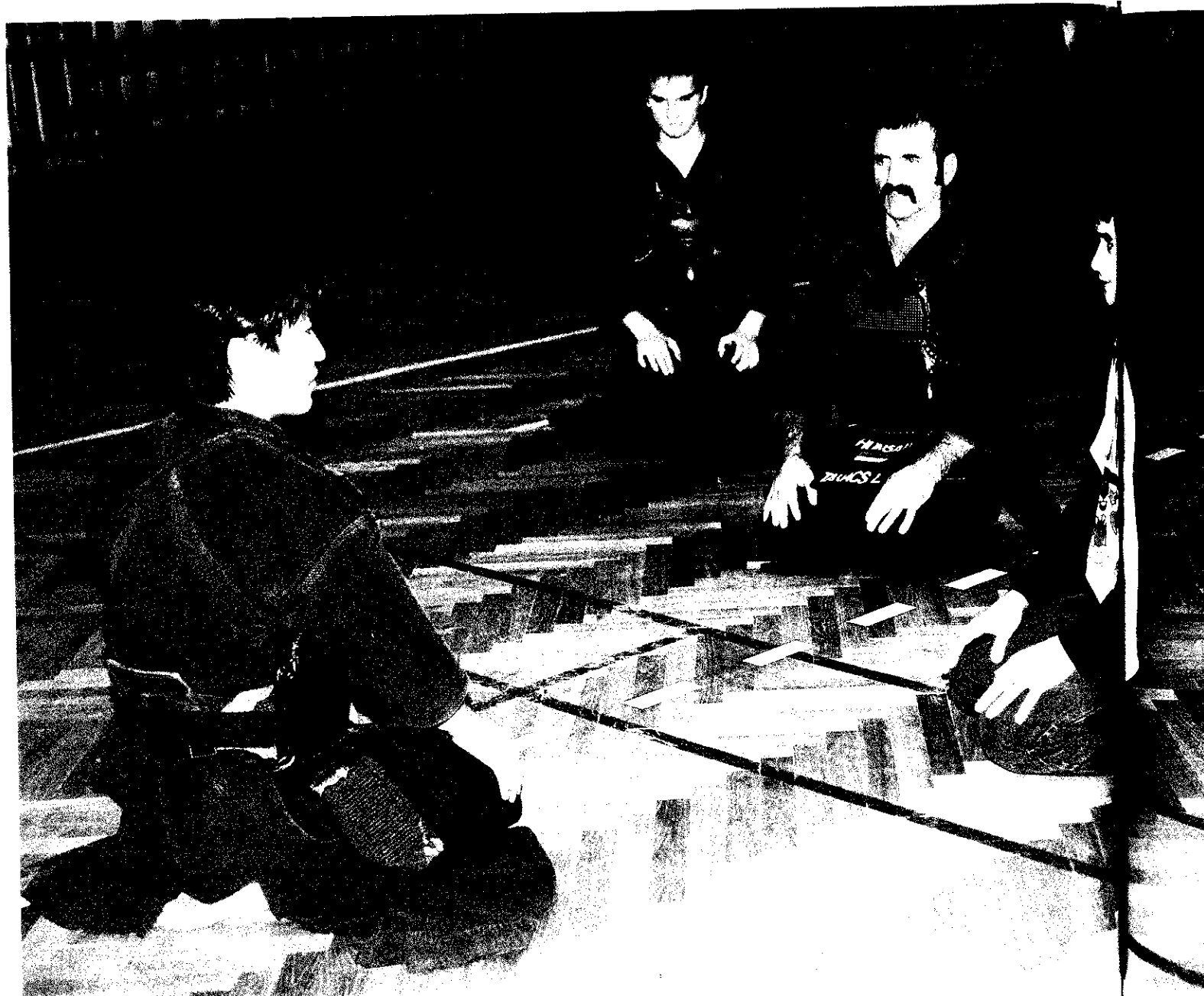
# Hungary

## Volunteers bring traditional Japanese martial arts to Eastern Europe

At a gymnasium in Budapest, several local men and women dressed in kendo fencing suits meditate with their eyes closed, sitting cross-legged in Japanese style. They await calm in their souls, then give thanks to the flag and to their instructor. JOCV volunteers may not have been working in Hungary long, but interest in Japan is high and there are many kendo training centers such as this one.

Judo is also very popular and JOCV instructors highly regarded. The volunteers helped Csik Ferenc Elementary School to win its first ever victory at the 1994 European Championships. The shouting of children training on the mats is now a common sound in gymnasiums throughout the land.

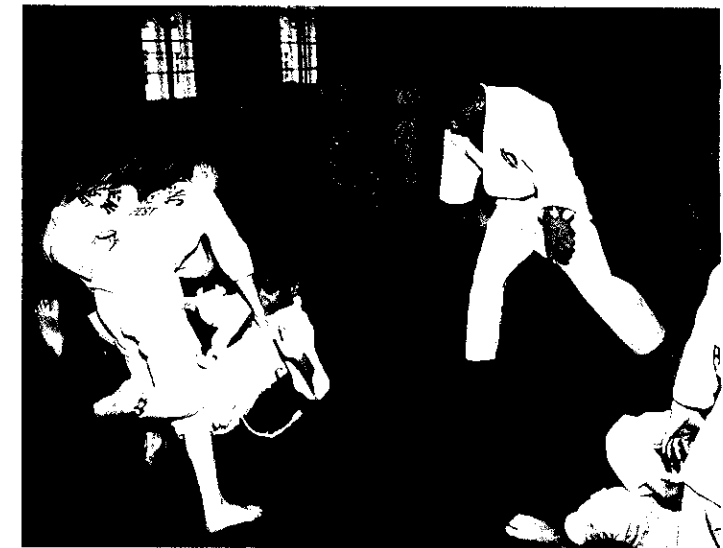
In this way, JOCV volunteers are spreading international goodwill through the medium of physical education.



The first part of every lesson is mopping the floor of the hall

The Hungarian people study kendo to gain not just strength but also an understanding of Japanese culture, customs and knowledge. Tetsushi ABE finds himself fielding all sorts of questions from his students, who see kendo as an opportunity to establish contact with Japan itself. The JOCV volunteers are thus discovering how to use kendo for cultural exchange in the wider sense between the two countries.





**"The most important thing is that they enjoy it"**

The popularity of Judo among the Hungarians is illustrated by the country's gold medal win in the Olympics. Masahiro SUDO is shown here with his third-grade elementary school class of 24 pupils. While some have already advanced to the level of overhead throws and similar moves, others get angry if paired with another student they don't like or burst out crying when they get hurt. Like a true judo master, Masahiro must tackle little incidents such as these as well as teach judo.



Old town in Buda, Budapest



# The 30-year history of J.O.C.V.

In 30 years since its inception, J.O.C.V. has evolved in line with the changing nature of society. In this section we take a look back over the achievements during this period.

**January 1954**  
Japan joins Colombo Plan

**January 1960**  
Oliver Franks stresses importance of North-South problem

**September 1961**  
President John F. Kennedy advocates First U.N. Development Decade

**June 1962**  
Establishment of Overseas Technical Cooperation Association (OTCA)

**November 1965**  
Inauguration of United Nations Development Plan (UNDP)

**November 1966**  
Establishment of Asian Development Bank (ADB)

## 1965

**Laos**  
First dispatch  
24 December

## 1966

**Cambodia**  
First dispatch  
9 January

**Malaysia**  
First dispatch  
15 January

**Philippines**  
First dispatch  
22 February

**Kenya**  
First dispatch  
30 March

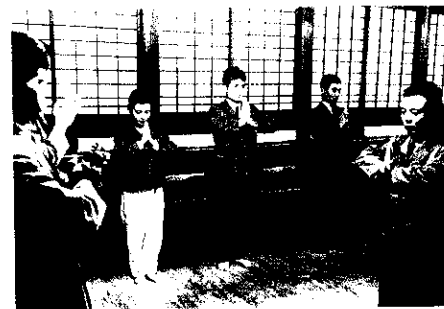
**India**  
First dispatch  
16 September

## 1965-1974



First 31 volunteers during two-month training at the Yokohama Emigration Center

->Zen incorporated into curriculum as illustration of Eastern philosophy



Celebration to mark first JOCV dispatch at Shinjuku Building (7F)



**August 1967**  
Inauguration of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

## 1967

**Tanzania**  
First dispatch  
30 March

**Morocco**  
First dispatch  
21 September

**December 1968**  
Japan posts world's second-highest GNP after United States

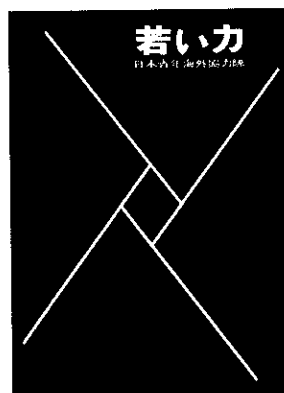
## 1968

**El Salvador**  
First dispatch  
12 September

**October 1969**  
Pearson Report "Partners in Development"

## 1969

Launching of the JOCV publication "youthful Energy" in July 1965



Learning the local language from elementary school students during breaks between work (Philippines)



A total of 131 JOCV volunteers have been dispatched to India over the 12 years since 1966, including nurses as well as experts in rice cultivation and livestock farming



The first volunteers (24 women and 6 men) arrived in Tanzania in March 1967. The women worked with local women at social development centers throughout the country



Three new volunteers being met by embassy officials and serving volunteers (right-hand end) at Rabat Airport, Morocco



Shopping at the market in Casablanca, Morocco



Buying cherries at a stall in the center of Damascus, Syria

## 1970

**Syria**  
First dispatch  
9 January

**Zambia**  
First dispatch  
31 March

**Cambodia**  
Dispatch suspended  
in May

**Nepal**  
First dispatch  
1 September

**Uganda**  
General Agreement concluded  
21 December

**October 1970**  
United Nations adopts Second United Nations Development Decade

## 1971

**Malawi**  
First dispatch  
16 August

**January 1971**  
Civil Servant Dispatches Law enacted

## 1972

**Ethiopia**  
First dispatch  
14 August

**Western Samoa**  
First dispatch  
11 December

**June 1972**  
U.N. Conference on the Human Environment adopts "Declaration on the Human Environment"

## 1973

**Tonga**  
First dispatch  
30 March

**Bangladesh**  
First dispatch  
18 August

**October 1973**  
First Oil Crisis

## 1974

**Costa Rica**  
First dispatch  
9 October

**August 1974**  
Establishment of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

**November 1975**  
First G-5 Summit of Heads of State of the Most Industrialized Nations held in Paris

**April 1976**  
Establishment of Supporting Organization of JOCV

**March 1977**  
Completion of payments in compensation for World War II

**July 1978**  
Prime Minister Takeo FUKUDA makes international pledge at Bonn Summit to double disbursement of ODA (Official Development Assistance) within three years

**January 1979**  
Second Oil Crisis

**May 1979**  
Komagane Training Institute opens

**1975**

**Tunisia**  
First dispatch  
23 April

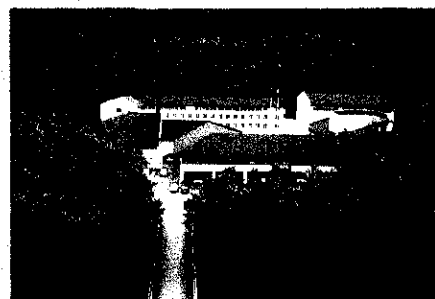
**1976**

**Honduras**  
First dispatch  
20 February

**1977**

**Ghana**  
First dispatch  
17 August

**Ethiopia**  
Dispatch suspended  
in September



・Komagane Training Institute opens May 1979  
!Mealtime at Komagane Training Institute. Japanese is prohibited even during meals; every moment is devoted to language study

**1978**

**Paraguay**  
First dispatch  
24 February

**Bolivia**  
First dispatch  
7 April

**Laos**  
Dispatch suspended  
in May

**India**  
Dispatch suspended  
in December

**1979**

**Liberia**  
First dispatch  
23 April

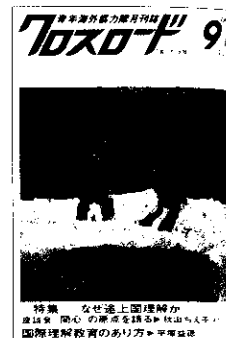
**El Salvador**  
Dispatch suspended  
in April

**1975-1985**



In 1975, film "Ahsante Saana—the Tanzania We Love" produced to commemorate ten years of JOCV work, screened at 462 independent sites to an audience of 240,000

JOCV magazine title changed to "Crossroads" in September 1978 edition



!Left: Trainees enjoy softball at the sports ground  
!Right: Skiing incorporated into training



20th anniversary photograph compilation "Together"

20th anniversary logo



20th anniversary commemorative stamp

Celebration staged at NHK Hall 9 October 1985 to mark 20 years since founding, including formal release of JOCV theme song "Together"; commemorative stamp issue; announcement of logo marking 20th anniversary of public recruiting; special magazine entitled "Twenty Years of JOCV—Then and Now" and photograph compilation "Together" by photographer Takeyoshi TANUMA; and visual display of participating countries through the years.



Formal release of JOCV theme song "Together" sung by Tetsuya TAKEDA and volunteers



**Solomon Islands**  
First dispatch  
17 June

**Ethiopia**  
Dispatch resumed  
18 October

**1980**

**Peru**  
First dispatch  
8 February

**Papua New Guinea**  
First dispatch  
31 July

**Senegal**  
First dispatch  
15 October

**December 1980**  
United Nations adopts International Strategy for Development in connection with Third U.N. Decade for Development

**1981**

**Sri Lanka**  
First dispatch  
3 April

**Thailand**  
First dispatch  
28 July

**October 1981**  
North-South Conference "International Conference on Cooperation and Development"

**1982**

**Maldives**  
First dispatch  
28 February

**April 1982**  
ASEAN Human Resources Development Center assistance project launched

**1983**

**Fiji**  
First dispatch  
25 July

**December 1983**  
Establishment of Japan Overseas Cooperation Association

**1984**

**Niger**  
First dispatch  
28 November

**August 1984**  
United Nations Conference on Population adopts "Mexico Declaration on Population and Development"

**1985**

**Colombia**  
First dispatch  
24 July

**March 1985**  
International Conference on United Nations Emergency Aid for Africa

**Dominican Republic**  
First dispatch  
18 December



**April 1986**  
Chernobyl nuclear reactor incident

**June 1987**  
Local Government Workers Dispatch Law promulgated

**October 1987**  
International Cooperation Day established

**December 1988**  
Japan becomes top ODA donor among DAC countries

**April 1989**  
First subsidies for NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations)

**July 1990**  
Japan completes loan repayments to World Bank  
Reunification of Germany

**October 1990**  
United Nations adopts International Strategy for Development in connection with Fourth U.N. Decade for Development

**January 1991**  
Voluntary Deposits for International Aid introduced

**February 1991**  
Gulf War ends

**August 1991**  
Soviet Union collapses

## 1986

**Jordan**  
First dispatch  
25 March

**China**  
First dispatch  
18 December

## 1987

**Rwanda**  
First dispatch  
25 March

## 1988

**Indonesia**  
First dispatch  
9 July

**Vanuatu**  
First dispatch  
9 July

**Bhutan**  
First dispatch  
12 July

## 1989

**Guatemala**  
First dispatch  
4 January

**Zimbabwe**  
First dispatch  
13 July

**Jamaica**  
First dispatch  
13 July

**Micronesia**  
First dispatch  
29 November

## 1990

**Liberia**  
Dispatch suspended  
in May

**Laos**  
Dispatch resumed  
13 July

**Sudan**  
First dispatch  
3 December

## 1991

**Yemen**  
First dispatch  
24 April

**Panama**  
First dispatch  
12 July

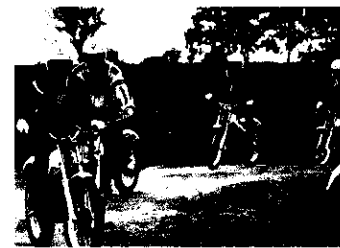
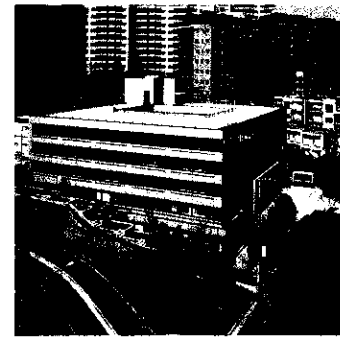
**Marshall Islands**  
First dispatch  
15 July

**Equador**  
First dispatch  
18 July

# 1986-1995



← Village Improvement Programme in Sabah, Malaysia, launched August 1984, the first team project combining volunteers from different disciplines (completed March 1993)



Construction begins in 1986 on new JOCV offices and Hiroo Training Institute  
↑ Outdoor training in everyday skills required during assignment, including hair cutting technique  
← Courses are tailored to local traffic conditions to ensure the safety of JOCV volunteers in all countries



Nihonmatsu Training Institute added January 1995 as number of dispatches grows



Strengthening of the National Artificial Insemination Program in the Philippines launched July 1989 to boost technical skill levels as well as living standards for small-scale farmers



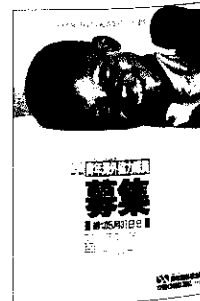
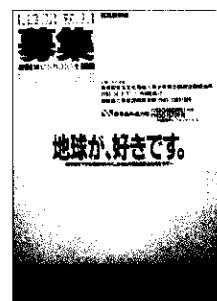
Senegal Green Promotion Project on desertification, conservation and planting begins 1986



25th anniversary photograph compilation "We Love the Earth" produced with generous assistance of photographer Kazuyoshi NOMACHI



Combined farewell party for 1st dispatch of 1990 and 25th anniversary celebration held at Japan Youth Center 3 July 1990



**Nicaragua**  
First dispatch  
16 August

**Cote d'Ivoire**  
First dispatch  
11 December

## 1992

**Hungary**  
First dispatch  
16 March

**Mongolia**  
First dispatch  
8 April

**Burundi**  
First dispatch  
25 August

**Cambodia**  
Dispatch resumed  
26 August

**Botswana**  
First dispatch  
31 August

## 1993

**Sudan**  
Dispatch suspended  
in January

**Bulgaria**  
First dispatch  
15 February

**Poland**  
First dispatch  
15 February

**Rwanda**  
Dispatch suspended  
in March

**El Salvador**  
Dispatch resumed  
31 March

**Mexico**  
First dispatch  
26 July

**Burundi**  
Dispatch suspended  
in October

## 1994

**Yemen**  
Dispatch suspended  
in May

## 1995

**Viet Nam**  
First dispatch  
21 February

**Egypt**  
General Agreement concluded  
15 March

**Pakistan**  
First dispatch  
3 April

**Saint Lucia**  
First dispatch  
planned

**June 1992**  
Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development)

**September 1992**  
PKO (Peace-Keeping Operation) dispatch to Cambodia

**May 1993**  
Elections in Cambodia

**October 1993**  
Conference on African Development in Tokyo

**April 1994**  
Elections in South Africa

**January 1995**  
Nihonmatsu Training Institute opens



**Photographers (in alphabetical order)**

- Shinichi OSAKA Syria (pp. 26-29)  
Koji SATO Tonga, Fiji (pp. 70-77)  
Takeyoshi TANUMA Morocco, Bulgaria, Hungary (pp. 30-33, 80-87)  
Yoshihisa YAMADA Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Paraguay (pp. 54-67)  
Katsumi YOSHIDA Cambodia, Thailand, Bhutan (pp. 8-23)  
Mitsuya WATANABE Tanzania, Ghana, Zambia (pp. 36-51)

**Other photographs**

**Takeyoshi TANUMA**

(Cover photograph, plus photographs of China, India, Viet Nam, Pakistan, Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen, Botswana, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Poland)  
possession of Japan International Cooperation Agency

## My work with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

**Takeyoshi TANUMA**

Already over 20 years have passed since I first worked with the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. The assignment in 1972 took me to Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, where seven young men and women were working on a farming project.

The women volunteers had just begun growing vegetables on reclaimed land as a means of obtaining cash income for the village. The local women had been skeptical at first, not knowing what to do with their newfound earnings.

One day, one of the villagers decided to replace her straw roof with tin. The others, seeing how her house no longer leaked in the rain, immediately followed suit, redoubling their efforts at vegetable cultivation to earn the necessary cash.

Though I was not part of that project, I think it is a wonderful story.

JOCV volunteers serve for two (extendible to three) years as a member of the community, working to develop the country and train local people. Though it sounds simple, there are innumerable obstacles to be overcome. I am full of admiration for the devotion and self-sacrifice displayed by the volunteers who take on these tasks.

The efforts of young people in the international arena are building a network that transcends national borders, one that will surely grow and expand in the future. I believe that the JOCV volunteers, striving to help other countries in the most direct and natural way, are something in which Japan can deservedly take great pride.

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# Lovely People, Lovely Earth

J.O.C.V. around the globe

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**March 1995**

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Sayuri OKAZAKI

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