



part 2

Success
Stories



Before a Participant, Now an Expert From EEPIS - ITS to Rwanda

When the Indonesian lecturers at the Surabaya polytechnic institute received training from Japanese experts for the development of curriculum in the fields of electronics and information engineering (and later electrical engineering) in the late 1980s and 1990s, many may have not imagined that someday these teachers will support the capacity building of Rwandan lecturers in Africa.



Zen (center) participates in an ET Department meeting together with an expert from Japan, Nakajima (right)

One of the staffs of the Electronics Engineering Polytechnic Institute of Surabaya (EEPIS-ITS) who experienced both the opportunities above is Mochammad Zen Samsono Hadi, a lecturer of the Telecommunication Engineering Faculty. He was dispatched to the Tumba College of Technology (TCT) - Rwanda in mid 2010 as a JICA expert to share his knowledge, skill, and experience with his counterparts in Rwanda as a hope of producing qualified lecturers, which in turn would produce qualified graduates (technicians) who are ready to work in the industrial world.

During the six weeks at the Tumba Campus, Zen supported especially the Electronics and Telecommunication Technology (ET) course, one of the three (3) courses provided in that technical and vocational education and activity (TVET) institution that provides Diploma level higher education. He - together with Mr. Kenji NAKAJIMA, a JICA expert from Japan - guided the ET course lecturer in composing practicum instructions and lecture notes in power point for the subjects of Data Communication and Computer Networking, Telephony Systems, and Optical Communication.

Zen also provided intensive training on how to operate equipments that have already been provided by JICA through the project entitled "Strengthening the Capacity of Tumba College of Technology." Actually Zen and NAKAJIMA's dispatch as experts is also a part of this Technical Cooperation Project (TCP), implemented through the cooperation between the Rwandan Ministry of Education and JICA.

EEPIS-ITS was physically established with the support of Japan's Grant Aid in 1988. Meanwhile, JICA's technical cooperation was implemented for nearly 20 years for the development of electrical engineering education. Since 1993 it has already started to host TCTPs for several years through cooperation with JICA. EEPIS has also become a competitive institution in the international robot technology community.

Apart from the assistance for the lecturers, Zen - who has a 6-year teaching experience in EEPIS - also accompanied them in fiber optic training for the students, academic curriculum revision, and conducting sharing of experience as part of the support for the improvement of academic quality in TCT.

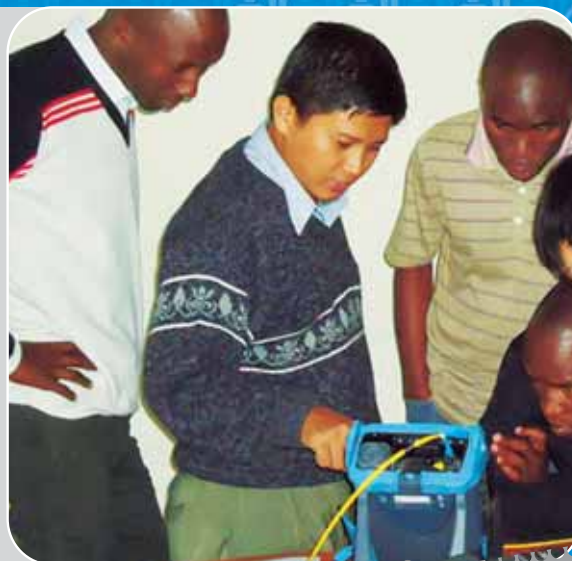
EEPIS-ITS was chosen to provide Third Country Expert (TCE) since it has a similar ET course with more than 20 years of cooperation history with JICA. EEPIS' campus was built in 1988 through Japan's support, just as TCT's campus (in 2008). Since then, EEPIS has become the leading engineering higher education institution in Indonesia for the electronic-related field. In fact, it has been hosting training programs - in cooperation with JICA - for lecturers from Asian and African countries since 1993.

When asked of his impression about the assignment in TCT, Zen stated that he received very good and enthusiastic responses from his counterparts there, shown by their vibrancy in conducting practical work and high attendance rate. "The program has been very helpful for them, since previously the subjects were delivered more theoretically to the students. With the training program, they could now balance between the theoretical and practical aspects. This is surely in line with JICA's mission in building and developing TCT, so that the diploma graduates produced there could have high skills."

Meanwhile, being more than 30-hour flight away from his home campus in East Java, the personal adjustments had not been that easy for Zen.

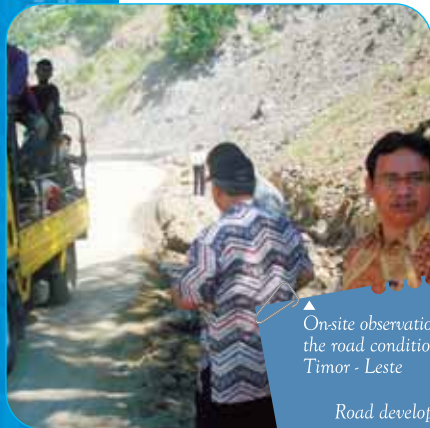
"The weather there was very cold, completely different with Surabaya, which is very hot. That created a challenge right after my arrival in Tumba. Luckily, I prepared my own medications, so the flu I got did not last long. Most importantly, the warm welcome from the lecturers of TCT, especially the Head of the ET Department, Mr. Jean Pierre, made me feel at home," he stated.

With the knowledge transfer from Indonesia, it is hoped that TCT would in turn become a leading technical higher education institution that contributes to the development of Rwanda and the African region. ■



Rwandan lecturers listen to Zen (second from left) explaining about optic fiber





▲ On-site observation of the road condition in Timor-Leste

▼ Road development and management training in Indonesia



Bridging Roads with Neighborly Assistance

Supporting Timor-Leste's Infrastructure Development through Triangular Cooperation

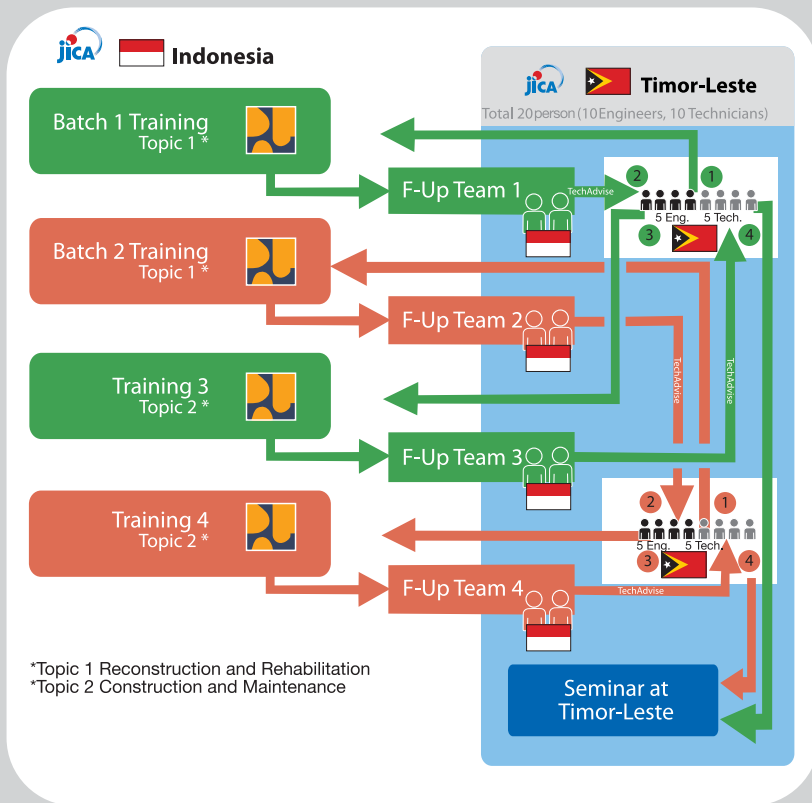
As one of the youngest countries in Southeast (SE) Asia, the socio-economic development of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is important in enhancing the regional security not only of the region, but also of Asia as a whole. One of the main and uneasy development issues that it needs to tackle is infrastructure development and maintenance. However, Timor-Leste is not alone in this effort, as Indonesia and Japan (through JICA) are providing support through capacity development.

Although area-wise it is considered a small country of only around 14,900 km², road network is still a crucial mean of connecting the entire country with a population of around 1.1 million people. In rainy season, many roads are affected with sediment disasters, thus isolating many regions.

Ministry of Public Works (PU) is one of the oldest and longest counterparts of JICA in Indonesia. The cooperation with PU ranges from physical establishment of major infrastructures through Loans and Grants, formulation of various national development master plans, to capacity development of its personnel through numerous training programs. It has also been hosting TCTPs in fields of sabo, road, etc.

Moreover, bridges there have posed safety problems, thus hampering traffic flow. Although various assistance and projects have been extended or underway, good maintenance capacity of the roads and bridges is needed in sustaining them.

Through the long cooperation with Japan since the 1960s, Indonesia has accumulated extensive knowledge and experiences in the road sector. These could be applicable by Timor-Leste in upgrading the level of its engineers and technicians. Based on such background and in-depth discussions between the three countries (in May and June 2010), Indonesia stated its willingness to support a project that is tailor-made to meet the needs of the neighbor country.



Based on observation and exchange of ideas at the field, Indonesian experts made the overall project planning with the support from JICA in terms of project design and qualitative improvement. The project consists of two (2) training subjects related to roads and bridges, which are “reconstruction and rehabilitation” and “construction and maintenance,” each to be conducted twice to enable all twelve engineers of the country to join without disturbing Timor-Leste’s regular business schedule.

Meanwhile, in order to maximize the effect of the training through the application and utilization by the trainees, a team is

planned to be dispatched to Timor-Leste after each of the training to provide technical advice on the practical application of the knowledge acquired.

Timor-Leste, Indonesia, and JICA have signed the agreement for the project and started Batch 1 Training in January 2011. The Project is expected to bring significant effect to the country’s road sector, especially as the cooperation is built upon stable and friendly relationship between the two neighbouring countries. ■

Towards SSC as a National Policy

part 3

Addressing Indonesia's Stance on South-South Cooperation in the International Arena

Indonesia's involvement in South-South Cooperation (SSC) with the support of JICA started in 1981, and throughout these 30 years, various cooperation projects have been implemented. Involvement in SSC means that Indonesia has been providing international (development) assistance to other countries. With the ever-growing involvement of Indonesia, one question has lingered, which is "Why does Indonesia provide international assistance?" In fact, this came up during a joint workshop on SSC held by the Government of Indonesia (GOI) and JICA in 2009.

Indonesia's involvement in bridging developing countries can actually be traced back to 1955 when she initiated and hosted the "Asian-African Conference" in Bandung (West Java) as a means to promote economic and cultural cooperation among Asian and African countries, most of which were still newly established at that time. Such historical background in combination with the commitment often stated by the high-level officials in regional and international forums (such as ASEAN, G-20, Bali Democracy Forum) have recently increased other developing countries' expectation on Indonesia's support in addressing the issues they face.

In response to such expectation, it is important for Indonesia to formulize a comprehensive approach in the form of a national policy for its SSC. Japan can share her experience and knowledge gained through her own international cooperation to Indonesia, which has actually already possess the basis, such as the National Mid-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) for 2010-2014 that contains SSC as one of Indonesia's national agenda, the "Jakarta Commitment" that states SSC as a means to raise aid effectiveness nationally, and A4DES (Aid for Development Effectiveness Secretariat) that coordinates the inter-ministerial discussions.





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JICA is currently assisting Indonesia in the policy formulation process through the implementation of researches. One of these is a Policy Research that focuses on past, present and future views on Indonesia's SSC based on interviews with various stakeholders in the country, which was later discussed in a National Seminar in July 2010. The National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) issued a Ministerial Decree in August 2010 as a result of the National Seminar and formed a Coordinating Team on SSC to follow up.

Another support for the formulation of a Detailed Plan is currently under way. The Coordinating Team is preparing the Grand Design and Blue Print for SSC. These documents are expected to answer the questions of "Why (Indonesia conducts) international cooperation?" and "How the international cooperation (assistance) is implemented?" Considering the diverse culture of Indonesia, various views and answers exist, which is not only a healthy situation but also will enrich the idea. Nevertheless, JICA believes that a final answer will arise, confirming the stance of Indonesia regarding SSC in the international arena.

Currently, JICA is also working together with GOI through a series of international conferences, which provide a chance for Indonesia to be recognized as a pivotal country for the promotion of SSC. Once the policy has been formulized, JICA will be able to support Indonesia's SSC in a more comprehensive manner. The 50-year cooperation between Japan and Indonesia has accumulated significant quality and quantity of knowledge and network that could serve as assets for the SSC. Meanwhile, the renewed partnership between the two countries is hoped contribute to international development, especially in other developing countries. ■

International Conferences on South-South Cooperation	
High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development	March 24-25, 2010, Bogota, Colombia (Government of Colombia)
High-Level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation	November 23, 2010, Geneva, Switzerland (UNDP, JICA, ILO)
High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation	December 1-3, 2009, Nairobi, Kenya (UN)
Pre-event of Global South-South Development Expo 2009, High-Level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation	December 14, 2009, Washington D.C., USA (UNDP, JICA, IFC)

