

JICA's Support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation



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Growing South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In recent years, China, India, Brazil and other emerging countries have actively been providing development cooperation (South-South cooperation) to other developing countries. Their development cooperation has taken a track that is different from the assistance provided by developed countries (North-South cooperation).

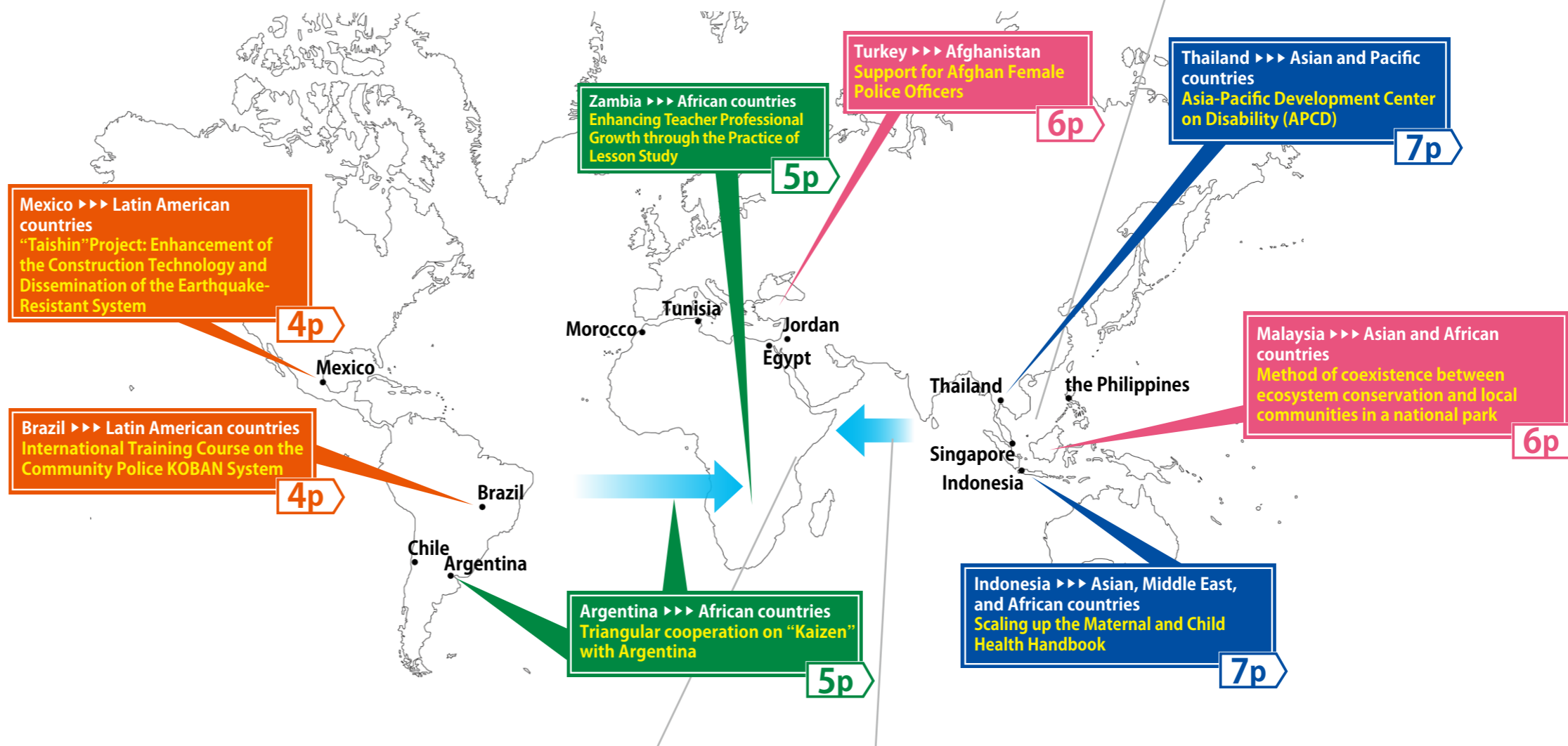
JICA has supported South-South cooperation since 1975, because it values the partnership in which developing countries are mutually deepening their ties by helping each other. Further advancing this cooperation, JICA also promotes widely triangular cooperation, by collaborating with pivotal countries and international institutions. This new type of framework for partnerships is now more actively utilized worldwide to address global issues.

The Agenda 2030, especially the SDG 17, highlights the importance of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation as a key methodology for capacity building.

What South-South and Triangular Cooperation mean to JICA

After joining the Colombo Plan in 1954, Japan began providing technical assistance. It can be regarded as South-South cooperation because at that time, Japan was still undergoing postwar reconstruction and receiving financial assistance from other donor countries. Japan used to be a recipient country of development assistance as well as "a provider of South-South cooperation."

JICA believes that South-South and triangular cooperation are effective in 1) disseminating successful efforts including those achieved through Japan's cooperation, 2) contributing to the promotion of regional and global cooperation, and 3) complementing and supplementing bilateral cooperation with the knowledge and experience of developing countries to achieve development results.



Towards formulating needs-oriented South-South Cooperation

JICA launched the JICA-ASEAN Regional Cooperation Meeting (JARCOM) in 2002 and started supporting the formulation of needs-oriented South-South cooperation in the ASEAN region. In 2009, JARCOM was redirected to a new mechanism, the Japan-Southeast Asian Meeting for South-South cooperation (J-SEAM), which aimed to formulate and implement well-prepared South-South cooperation, improve its quality and enhance the network of member countries and relevant agencies in the region. The activities included their Annual Meeting for discussion on needs and needs-resource matching among the member countries, Project Formulation Activities (fact-finding missions, study missions, workshops and seminars) and the quarterly monitoring of project formulation activities. In 2012, JICA dissolved J-SEAM in order to extend its support for regional cooperation in a way that is aligned with ASEAN's own initiatives and processes

Partnership Program

The Partnership Program (PP) is a comprehensive framework established between the Japanese government and the government of a pivotal country to jointly support the development endeavors of beneficial countries and regions. Under this framework, JICA, in collaboration with the partner (pivotal) country, dispatches and receives personnel and provides other forms of cooperation including seminars in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

To date, Japan has concluded PPs or Technical Cooperation agreements similar to PPs with 12 countries (Thailand, Singapore, Egypt, Tunisia, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, the Philippines, Mexico, Morocco, Indonesia and Jordan).

- Countries with Partnership Program with Japan on the map (as of November 2018)

SHEP Approach and Its Expansion under the TICAD process

Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP) Approach was developed in Kenya through JICA's technical cooperation project increasing farmers' income. Oriented Agriculture" and to "grow to sell". JICA has started to promote the SHEP countries throughout Africa as one of the agriculture in Africa. The SHEP approach has in the African region. The expansion is mainly and extension workers who participated in JICA supports them in various ways in their

Promotion (SHEP) Approach technical cooperation project increasing farmers' income. Oriented Agriculture" and to "grow to sell". Approach to expand to pillars of its cooperation in so far spread to 23 countries driven by government officials JICA's training program, while respective home countries.

Frameworks to promote cross-regional cooperation

There are several types of framework to promote cross-regional cooperation. Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD), started in 2013, is a framework initiated by the Japanese government to discuss ways in which the East Asian countries can use their resources, knowledge, and experiences to support Palestine's development efforts.

Another example is the Asia-Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Program (AAKCP), proposed by JICA in 2004 under TICAD process. The program aimed to provide an in-depth sharing and exchange of knowledge and experience with the goal of generating new knowledge, ideas, perspectives or approaches that would be appropriate and valuable for development efforts in Africa. Various knowledge exchange activities in the fields of rural community development and health have been conducted as sub-programs of the AAKCP.

“Taishin” Project: Enhancement of the Construction Technology and Dissemination of the Earthquake-Resistant System Mexico >>> El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Haiti



The Project Taishin (a Japanese word meaning “quake resistant”) aimed at alleviating the disaster risk for residents in the popular low-cost housing in El Salvador. Started in 2003, the project is a collaborative response by Mexico and Japan to help El Salvador to recover and reconstruct the country from the aftermath of two successive tragic earthquakes in 2001, with the casualties of over 1,000 people and extensive damages on buildings, especially on popular housing of low-income group.

El Salvador received the technical cooperation from a sub-regional center of excellence on disaster prevention, the National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), established in 1990 in Mexico with the Japanese assistance. Through this triangular partnership, main local counterparts including two universities and a local non-governmental foundation, El Salvador Foundation for Development and Dissemination of Housing (FUNDASAL), have jointly developed and piloted quake-resistant construction methods for popular housing by compiling and disseminating manuals and guidelines. The phase 2 of this project worked towards the further scaling-up of the tested methods. Now, these experiences are being introduced to other Latin American countries, such as Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Haiti.



International Training Course on the Community Police KOBAN System Brazil >>> El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica



Photo: Shinichi Kuno



Photo: Hikaru Nagatake

KOBAN is based on the idea of direct community policing, and originated in Japan. Small police units are stationed in neighborhoods and, after securing the trust of their communities, can more effectively tackle problems ranging from providing emergency services or solving crimes to other assistance such as a “lost and found” service or giving directions. The State of Sao Paulo in Brazil and its state capital first introduced the KOBAN concept in 1997 and in the latest project that ended in 2011, Japanese police experts regularly visited Sao Paulo, while local officials came to Japan for advanced training. Impressive results include a decrease in the homicide rate in Sao Paulo city and in one particularly dangerous district, Ranieri, by 70%. The safety of women was also improved by strengthening the ties between local police officers and female population through regular communication. Nearly all of Brazil’s 26 states and the Federal District have now embraced the idea.

As Sao Paulo’s KOBAN system gradually produces results, other Latin American nations searching for ways to improve public safety have taken a serious interest in it. Brazil hosts seminars and training courses for police officials from neighboring countries such as El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Besides, the trained Brazilian police officers were dispatched as experts to those countries.

Enhancing Teacher Professional Growth through the Practice of Lesson Study Zambia >>> Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe



In 2005, JICA started supporting the Ministry of Education in Zambia to introduce “Lesson Study”. The goal of JICA’s support of Lesson Study has been to achieve the continuous improvement of the quality of mathematics and science education in Zambia. The support has been provided in four project stages from 2005 to 2019. By 2015, 1.64 million learners, 46,058 teachers and 3,121 schools had benefitted from the Lesson Study interventions. As a result of this intervention, the pass rate of national exam heightened, (target group 62.6%; non-target group 50.3%), and the teaching skill was improved compared to the baseline. This ‘Zambian model’ of the Lesson Study drew attention internationally, and Zambia began to receive study visits from other countries in Africa. In order to systematically share Zambia’s experience and knowledge, in 2016, the Ministry of Education of Zambia started to offer a training programme for mathematics and science educators, with technical support from JICA.

To strengthen the support framework for Lesson Study and Pedagogical Content Knowledge (PCK), the National Science Centre in Zambia was upgraded from a Unit to a fully-fledged Directorate in the Ministry in 2017. Now, the National Science Centre functions as a hub for the Lesson Study and the PCK for the Ministries of Education across the African countries, and continually enhances mathematics and science education, thereby contributing to Zambia’s and Africa’s socio-economic development.



Triangular cooperation on “Kaizen” with Argentina Argentina >>> Latin American and African countries



The Argentine government has implemented overseas cooperation since the 1980s with emphasis on the Mercosur Region. In 2001, the Japanese Government and the Argentine Government launched the “Partnership Program for Joint Cooperation between Japan and Argentina (PPJA)” to accelerate the collaboration in triangular cooperation mainly through the implementation of third country trainings and dispatch of experts.

The Program was further reinforced through the “Project on Kaizen Technical Assistance Network for Global Opportunities (Kaizen TANGO)” which started in October 2017. The project is to enhance the competitiveness among the Argentine enterprises by utilizing “Kaizen”, which is a comprehensive knowledge for quality and productivity improvement developed in Japan. Target countries of the project’s third country cooperation is not limited within the Latin American and the Caribbean Region, but include African countries like Angola and Mozambique thanks to the initiatives of the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) of Argentina.

In recent years, JICA puts much emphasis on the African Region, and has signed a letter of agreement with the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) on ‘Africa Kaizen Initiative’. JICA regards INTI as a strategic partner to promote the Initiative’s key strategies; 1) Advocating at Policy Level, 2) Creating and Strengthening the Function of Center of Excellence, 3) Standardizing KAIZEN in Africa, and 4) Networking with KAIZEN Promoting Institutions around the World.

Support for Afghan Female Police Officers Turkey >>> Afghanistan



Since 2014, JICA has organized workshops for the Afghan female police officers on violence against women, in coordination with the UNDP-LOTFA at the Sivas Police Training Center in Turkey. The workshop has been conducted as one component of the professionalization-training program, aiming at enhancing the capacity of the cadets to effectively respond to the cases of violence against women in Afghanistan. JICA has dispatched Japanese experts to the workshops to give lectures on domestic violence, gender equality and the role of female police in the investigation of sexual crime. This is because it is said that about 87 percent of women in Afghanistan experience gender-based violence including domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment and forced marriage. Women currently constitute only about 4 percent of the country's national police force, and nurturing female police officers who can provide appropriate protection and support to women who have experienced violence is an urgent demand.

Through lectures, group discussions, and role playing activities, the participants of the workshop increased their knowledge and skills for providing effective protection and support. To date, about 1,000 female police officers — or about 30 percent of female Afghan police officers — have participated in this workshop.



Method of coexistence between ecosystem conservation and local communities in a national park Malaysia >>> Botswana, Cambodia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam



National parks limit human activities in order to maintain the nature, and residence and cultivation are not usually allowed in national parks. However, the Crocker Range Park in Borneo Island in Malaysia has been practicing a unique conservation mechanism since 2000s: it allows traditional human activities under co-management system by the Park Authority and the local community.

This practice marvels to the participants of training, government officers in charge of nature conservation from Asia and Africa. Although they are quite aware of the importance of community involvement in national park conservation, allowing human activities of local community in a national park is still contentious. In many developing countries, stringent severance of the two appears dominant. In the training program in the Crocker Range Park, the trainees can learn about its method of co-existence in a practical way. For example, the participants from Botswana, Cambodia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, learned the long history of Malaysia to establish and maintain the Community Use Zone. They found that despite of the challenges in communication and emotional barriers, the participation of local communities in decision-making process is important and effective. On the last day of the training, most participants announced that they wish to introduce "Awareness program on Natural Resource for local communities" after going back to their countries. For example, the Thai trainees prepared a plan for creating community's rules that balances the natural resources conservation and the income growth of the local community. In this way, they can bring their learning back to their countries.

Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability Thailand >>> Asian and Pacific countries



Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) project has been facilitating collaboration among organizations of persons with disabilities in 37 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to promote their empowerment and an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society. Since its establishment in 2002, the APCD project has conducted various training programs and workshops on disability issues. In these programs, persons with disabilities from the region share their expertise, including in the strengthening of self-help organizations and the implementation of community-based rehabilitation activities. Many ex-participants of the APCD project activities participate in the policy-making process in each country and are recognized as resource persons in their own country and in the Asia-Pacific region.

One of the notable results is the creation of self-help groups of deaf persons and persons with intellectual disabilities. The Thai deaf leaders, who have acquired knowledge and enhanced their leadership skills through attending APCD project activities, are actively supporting deaf persons in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. They have conducted various workshops in these countries, encouraging deaf persons to form their own organizations and promote understanding of their family members regarding the needs and potential of deaf persons. The Thai leaders with intellectual disabilities have also shared their knowledge and supported the establishment of the first ever self-help groups of persons with intellectual disabilities in Myanmar and Cambodia.



Scaling up the Maternal and Child Health Handbook Indonesia >>> Asian, Middle East, and African countries



JICA started the cooperation to introduce the Maternal and Child Health Handbook, widely known as MCH Handbook, in Indonesia in 1993. It was so difficult to scale up the MCH Handbook throughout Indonesia because there are more than 300 ethnic groups and many islands. In order to promote the MCH Handbook, JICA collaborated with Indonesian government officials and visited fields, verify needs on the ground, and more importantly, JICA thoroughly became a bridge between the officials and the people. These efforts made it possible to realize the introduction of the MCH Handbook throughout Indonesia in 2006.

In order to scale up the experience to other countries, the Indonesian government started the training program with JICA in 2007. Participants were invited from Asia, Middle East, and Africa. For example, officials from Afghanistan found that the MCH Handbook is an effective way to protect lives of children and mothers. After the training in Indonesia, they promoted the introduction of the MCH Handbook in Afghanistan by adapting the knowledge gained from the training program into their local context, in which many mothers are illiterate.

Over the 10 years' experience, more than 100 participants from 14 countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Kenya, Lao PDR, Morocco, Myanmar, Palestine, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, and Vietnam, have joined the training.