

## What's OSIC

Osaka International Centre (OSIC) serves as the base for JICA programs in the Kansai Region.

The basic foundation of livelihood in the developing countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania are even today threatened by many problems; Food shortages and malnutrition, increasing population and unhealthy living conditions, less education opportunity and the poverty of daily income levels of less than one US dollar.

The destruction of forest resources by deforestation and slash-and-burn agriculture, the serious desertification of sub-Saharan Africa, the problem of air pollution, water pollution, and the discharge of carbon dioxide that causes global warming has already become global-scale environmental issues facing both developed and developing countries.

Considering it our duty to tackle with these issues, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) contributes to the nation building of developing countries through human resource development, within the framework of Official Development Assistance (ODA) of Japan.

In addition to technical cooperation projects and feasibility studies (master plan study) carried out overseas, JICA annually invites approximately 8,000 training participants such as administrators, engineers, educators and researchers from developing countries in technical training courses in various fields. These training courses are organized at JICA's 13 International Center in Japan, and Osaka International Centre (OSIC) is one of them.

In cooperation with local governments in Japan, OSIC also recruits the Japanese volunteers to work overseas such as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), and conducts exchange programs between overseas participants and local residents as well.



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### Establishment

The Osaka International Training Centre (OITC, 62 beds) was established at Minami Kasugaoka, Ibaraki City of Osaka Prefecture, in 1967 by the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA), the forerunner of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to serve as its training facility in the Kansai region.

One of 13 International Centers operated by JICA, The Osaka International Centre (OSIC) which has 290 rooms (300 beds) was opened at Nishi-Toyokawa-cho of Ibaraki City in April, 1994, to replace an older training center and allow a larger number of training participants to be accommodated.

With the rich cultural heritage represented by the ancient Japanese capitals such as Kyoto and Nara, and the business expertise concentrated in Osaka, which is the industrial and economic heart of western Japan, OSIC provides training programs tailored to the needs of developing countries. Our programs cover business and industrial technology, infrastructure, scientific research, environmental studies, health and medical service, cultural assets preservation, legal systems and other fields.

Since 1967, approximately 14,000 training participants have been received at various training institutions in the Kansai region. These participants are now active in their home countries as the main pillars of national development. OSIC currently receives approximately 1,300 training participants per year from countries in Asia,

## Activities

### Training Program

Every year JICA accepts in Japan approximately 8,000 overseas training participants such as administrators, engineers and researchers who are supposed to contribute significantly to their nation's development. Through technical training courses, they experience and observe Japanese style technology and acquire knowledge and techniques necessary for contributing to their home country in variety of fields. Aside from technical field, participants gain better understandings of Japanese tradition and culture, and further promote mutual friendship with Japanese people. Since its establishment in 1994, OSIC has steadily increased the number of training participant it has accepted. In 2000, 77 group training course were conducted and nearly 1,300 participants were accepted, including individual training participants.

Training courses are designed with the advantages of the distinctive features of the Kansai region and cover a diverse range of fields. Examples are Commerce and Trade represented by courses on promotion of small and medium-sized businesses, and Environmental Protection represented by courses on prevention of air pollution and preservation of water quality. The Field of Culture, with courses on restoration and preservation of cultural assets, and on museum technology is another.

The duration of training ranges from 1 months for short courses to 6-8 months for longer courses. OSIC is also equipped with library and computer rooms for voluntary self-study.

For details, please take a look at [Group Training Courses in OSIC](#).



### Training Support

Overseas training participants are provided with the following support programs so that training can be conducted more efficiently and effectively;

- 1) 1 day after the training participants' arrival in Japan and before the start of their technical training, an orientation of about one week's duration is held to explain training content and provide general information on daily living and Japanese history, society and culture. The orientation also includes an one-day tour of Osaka and Kyoto.
- 2) Japanese language courses are prepared for facilitating daily living and encouraging a deeper understanding of Japan. There is an intensive course conducted for 1-2 weeks as a part of the training program and attended by about 2/3 of all participants hosted by OSIC. There is also a general course conducted in the evenings which is offered to only participants who wish to continue the study of Japanese language after completing the intensive course.

### Youth Invitation Program

Youth Friendship Program aims to strengthen mutual friendship by inviting groups of youth from Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America, who will shape 21st century. During their 28-day stay in Japan, it is intended that they should gain a better understanding of Japan and form friendships with Japanese of the same age group. In 2000, JICA invited 1,657 young people from all over the world to Japan. Of the total, 1,088 youth were hosted at the Kansai region and took part in our basic trainee program.



#### Development Education for children and students

In cooperation with universities, high schools and junior high schools, JICA supports to educate children and students about the situation of developing countries and Japanese development assistance. We organize exchange program between overseas participants and school children and students. We also dispatch JICA staff or ex-members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to schools to share their experiences in developing countries.

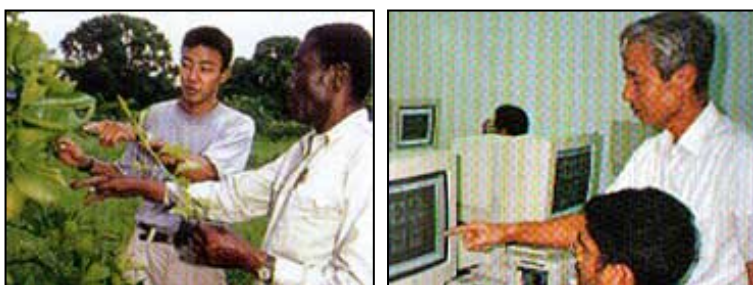


#### Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

The JOCV program is a grassroots level cooperation program where skilled young volunteers between the ages of 20 and 39 are dispatched to developing countries to live and work among the local community for 2 years. The kind of specialty of Volunteers currently sums up to more than 170 and they are working in 70 countries. About 1,300 volunteers are dispatched abroad every year. Hand in hand with municipal governments and ex-volunteers' associations in the Kansai region, OSIC is conducting a preliminary screening test for volunteers (the final selection is conducted by the JOCV Secretariat Office of JICA Headquarters in Tokyo).

#### Senior Volunteer Program

The Senior Volunteer Program sends skilled middle-aged (40-69) volunteers to developing countries. The program also fulfills the desire of middle-aged individuals to contribute to the growth of developing countries.



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## Yearly Events in OSIC

### International Cooperation Campaigns

These are organized each year on and around International Cooperation Day (October 6), in cooperation with local governments and international exchange organization.

### One-World Festival(International House,Osaka)

An event introducing international cooperation in a readily accessible form through music and dance from various countries, panel exhibitions, et al.



### Home Stays and Home Visits

Home stays and home visits for training participants are organized with the cooperation of various Kansai-based international exchange organization and host families.