

Voices

F R O M T H E F I E L D

Dinur Krismasari

Senior Representative, JICA Indonesia Office



Dinur Krismasari joined JICA in 1995 after a spell in the Indonesian government center on land research and development. She is now one of five senior representatives in JICA Indonesia, where she dispatches people for training and seminars in Japan and coordinates JICA's efforts on South-South cooperation.

“JICA wants to promote Indonesian capacity so that Indonesia can play a more active international development role in the future,” Dinur explains. “Indonesia and JICA collaborate in what we call triangular cooperation with third countries to build new partnerships.”

This collaboration goes beyond infrastructure work, though. “We are looking to widen our involvement. We cooperate on the environment, agriculture, and education.” The cooperation is also global in scope: “JICA Indonesia also works in Afghanistan and Palestine. Being involved in this triangular assistance with a Muslim country like Indonesia can help to complement JICA's activities in those countries. Japan's knowledge is something Indonesia can modify creatively and expand on.”

After the 2004 Aceh tsunami, Japan was a major partner in rebuilding infrastructure and in NGO collaboration to promote community trauma healing. But Japan, too, can learn from Indonesian experiences.

“After the 2011 tsunami in Japan, we had an exchange program for sending people from Aceh to Fukushima and Sendai and vice versa. People in the areas affected by the disaster have similar experiences of trauma. And this opportunity to visit the disaster areas in Japan helped to motivate people from Aceh and had a positive impact on them. It was inspiring for people to realize that our neighbors have similar problems and that we can do something to support them.”

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Comments:

jicagap-opinion@jica.go.jp

Nibancho Center Bldg
5-25, Niban-cho
Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-8012 JAPAN

Tel: +81-3-5226-6660

Fax: +81-3-5226-6396

www.jica.go.jp/english/

Cover: The Bangkok skyline: a powerful symbol of the dynamism on display throughout ASEAN as the region builds confidently toward shared prosperity and closer integration in the near future. (PHOTO: ATSUSHI SHIBUYA)



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the world's largest bilateral development organization, operating in some 150 countries to help some of the globe's most vulnerable people.