

# JICA's WORLD

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A photograph of a woman with dark skin and hair pulled back, smiling and looking towards the right. She is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned shirt. The background is dark with some vertical lines, possibly curtains. The lighting is soft, highlighting her face and the texture of her shirt.

Shaping a  
New Development  
Agenda from the  
**MDG Experience**



# Shaping a New Development Agenda from the MDG Experience

In 2000, the United Nations agreed on eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) crafted to reduce extreme poverty worldwide, with the target of achieving them by 2015. With one year remaining, the international community continues to closely monitor the progress made toward the goals and to explore new targets for a post-2015 development agenda.

Worldwide efforts toward

achieving the MDGs have halved the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day, improved access to safe drinking water, and increased primary education enrollment. Progress, however, has been uneven within countries and regions, and as the deadline approaches, some targets are in danger of remaining unmet.

JICA's efforts toward the MDGs have taken as a guiding principle the concept of "human security,"

which stresses protecting people from various threats, including natural disasters and conflicts—and, by making the benefits of development universally available, empowering individuals to meet these threats on their own. This issue of *JICA's World* features JICA projects to date and considers post-2015 development goals through the lens of inclusiveness, resilience, and environmental sustainability.

## Millennium Development Goals

MDG logos courtesy of UNDP Brazil.



**1** GOAL 1:  
ERADICATE EXTREME  
POVERTY AND HUNGER



**2** GOAL 2:  
ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL  
PRIMARY EDUCATION



**3** GOAL 3:  
PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY  
AND EMPOWER WOMEN



**4** GOAL 4:  
REDUCE CHILD  
MORTALITY



**5** GOAL 5:  
IMPROVE  
MATERNAL HEALTH



**6** GOAL 6:  
COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA,  
AND OTHER DISEASES



**7** GOAL 7:  
ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY



**8** GOAL 8:  
DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP  
FOR DEVELOPMENT





## Protecting the Lives of Mothers and Children in the Philippines

As part of the Philippine Development Plan 2011–2016, the Philippine government is implementing a range of programs to promote inclusive growth by boosting economic and social development. The plan is paying off: the country is expected to meet some of the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The goal of reducing mortality of children under five to 26.7 in 1,000 live births appears attainable. According to the World Health Organization, though, maternal mortality remains high, at 120 per 100,000 live births, and the target of 52 seems likely to remain out of reach. To address this issue, in 2008 the government initiated MNCHN—the Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health and Nutrition strategy—with the goal of improving the quality and access of maternal and child healthcare.

### REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY IN RURAL AREAS

In March 2006, ahead of the launch of this strategy, JICA began the Maternal and Child Health Project to support the Philippine government in its efforts to reduce the country's maternal mortality ratio (MMR). The project targeted the rural mountainous regions, where the progress toward the maternal mortality MDG target was far behind.

One project site was the province of Ifugao in northern Luzon. In Ifugao, births without a skilled birth attendant present were over 10 times the national average. The other site was the volcanic island of Biliran, northeast of Leyte Island, which had the country's highest MMR. There, home births were extremely common as rough roads hindered access to health facilities at the time of the project formulation.



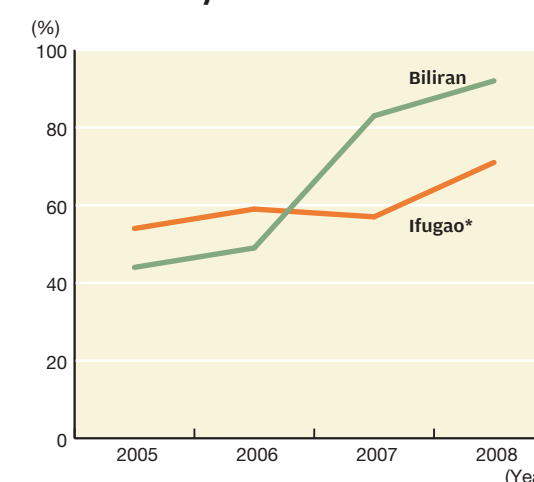
Terraced rice fields and remote villages lie scattered among the towering peaks of Ifugao province in northern Luzon.

In rural areas in particular, many births take place at home, where they are often attended by unlicensed midwives and other unregulated traditional birth attendants. This has been a significant obstacle to nationwide reductions in the Philippine MMR. Home births were most common in remote regions. In these areas, when hemorrhaging and other birth-related complications arose, it was difficult to receive emergency obstetric care due to poor road conditions and inadequate means of transportation.

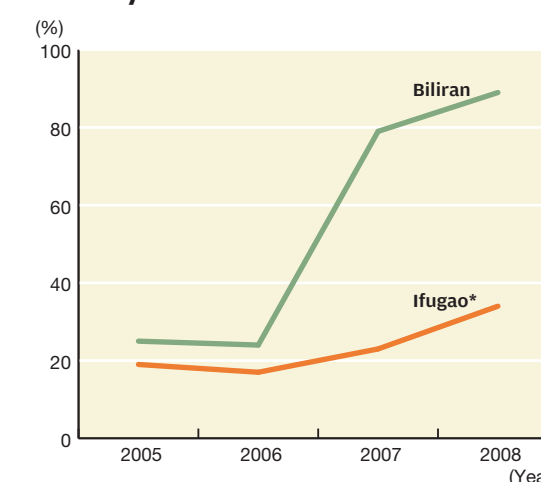
Over four years to March 2010, JICA assisted in providing medical training to midwives and educated community health volunteers to support maternal and newborn care in target areas. As a result of these efforts, between 2005 and 2008, the number of deliveries by skilled birth attendants increased in these areas—in Biliran climbing from

### Percentages of Deliveries by Skilled Birth Attendants and Facility-Based Deliveries in Target Areas

#### Deliveries by Skilled Birth Attendants



#### Facility-Based Deliveries



Source: Biliran and Ifugao Provincial Field Health Service Information System (2005–2008)  
\*Figures are for the municipalities of Alfonso Lista, Mayoyao, and Aguinaldo.



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The *barangay* health station in Combis on the island of Leyte (left). An expectant mother receives a prenatal checkup from a trained midwife at a rural health unit.



44% to 92%, and in Ifugao improving from 54% to 71%. The frequency of facility-based deliveries also increased considerably: Biliran went from 25% to 89% and Ifugao rose from 19% to 34%.

The Philippine government has recognized the achievements of the JICA project. In 2008 the Department of Health published a book to share and implement the processes used in this project nationwide.

### SCALING UP THE EFFORTS

The Project for Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Services in Eastern Visayas, called SMACHS, is being implemented from July 2010 to July 2014 to roll out the outcome of the Maternal and Child Health Project attained in Ifugao and Biliran, but scaled up to cover a population more than 10 times as large. The project is centered in Leyte, the largest province in the Eastern Visayas, and is being conducted in the city of Ormoc and 41 other municipalities.

Like earlier efforts, the project aims to strengthen the medical support system for pregnant mothers and ensure they are able to give birth safely by improving access to the obstetric and neonatal care that they need. To this end, the project is working to increase basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care services by providing medical facilities with proper equipment and by training medical staff at rural health units and regional hospitals, which serve as front-line medical facilities.

At the community level, the project is working to strengthen the capacity of community health volunteers and to increase the ratio of patients receiving a continuum of care at healthcare facilities,

from prenatal to birth and postnatal, with the overall goal of decreasing the MMR.

### STRENGTHENING NEONATAL CARE

There are 25 rural health units and district health centers in project areas. In a situation unique to the Philippines, there are also 103 *barangay* health stations that operate on a regional level in affiliation with these institutions. (A *barangay* is the smallest administrative division and forms the basis of towns and cities.) These health stations serve as many as 1,500 *barangays* throughout the country.

As part of the project, midwives from rural health units make regular visits to *barangay* health stations. Residents can receive natal health education, medical exams for nursing babies, vaccinations, treatment for tuberculosis, vitamin supplements for malnourished children, and other basic medical care and health guidance at the *barangay* level.

In general, one health station is staffed by one resident midwife and serves 10 *barangay*. The stations provide prenatal and postnatal checkups and are the first stop for residents seeking healthcare services.

Through the project, training is provided for midwives at *barangay* health stations in Ormoc City and 18 other municipalities. “We try to give participants the most practical training as possible, such as using cuts of pork to practice giving shots and dolls for natal resuscitation,” says a member of JICA’s SMACHS staff. “*Barangay* health stations are the front line of natal health, and the first step is to build community-level participation.”

*Barangay* health-station midwives are unprepared to offer a full range of maternity care. To ad-

PHOTO: MIKA TANIMOTO



Mothers bring their children to a *barangay* health station to be vaccinated.



JICA and the Department of Health hold a meeting with the governor of Leyte and mayors of municipalities in project areas. Meetings like these worked to improve maternal and child health services by fostering cooperation among local governments.

dress this issue, a new program was established to train residents as health volunteers. In this program, midwives provide basic maternal health management training to volunteers, who are then charged with between 20 and 70 households to look after. Community volunteers regularly check on expectant mothers, as well as nursing mothers, for up to six weeks after birth, and file weekly reports with midwives at the *barangay* health stations.

### BUILDING CONFIDENCE WITH TRAINING

*Barangay* health stations provide a broad level of basic medical services, but in cases requiring a higher level of care, such as with critical conditions, patients can be transferred via a referral system to rural health units, which have one doctor and several nurses and midwives on staff.

Roughly 30 kilometers south of Leyte’s largest city of Tacloban is the rural health unit in Dulag. The center receives patients from the *barangay* health station in nearby Combis, which serves villages with roughly 1,000 residents. Here the project trains doctors and nurses in prenatal and postnatal care and medical techniques.

“The biggest difference training has made is that nurses and midwives have gained a lot of confidence,” says Allen Alvarez, a doctor working at the center. “Before, they would often ask me what to do, but now they are able to provide birthing care on their own.”

In addition to medical training, a new system was introduced for staff from county and provincial hospitals and the health department in Leyte to visit individual rural health units and *barangay*

health stations to monitor how training is being utilized. The system ensures that health service quality is being maintained. These efforts have helped facility-based births in Leyte rise from 42.3% to 80.6% between 2009 and 2012. These numbers are proof of continued efforts to create a safe environment for mothers to give birth.

### EXPERIENCE REMAINS AFTER TYPHOON

Just as the Maternal and Child Health Project was entering its final stage, Typhoon Haiyan (locally called Typhoon Yolanda) made landfall on Leyte on November 8, 2013, lashing the island with peak winds of 313 kilometers per hour. Tacloban, which sits on the east coast, sustained catastrophic damage from flooding caused by massive tidal waves.

The region’s health facilities were not spared the destruction wrought by Haiyan. The rural health unit in Tolosa, which sits on the coast, was severely damaged by winds and flooding. The first floor of the building was covered in 1 meter of water, destroying the center’s delivery table, sterilization devices, and other vital medical equipment. The situation at the center was so severe that staff abandoned the structure and set up a makeshift center in the town hall.

Despite the extent of damage to the area, the regional director for the Department of Health in the Eastern Visayas, Jose Rubillos Llacuna Jr., remains confident. “Buildings and equipment were destroyed, but the techniques and knowledge gained from training remain, as does nationwide support for maternal and child health,” says Llacuna. Even among loss, the experiences of those involved in the program remain alive.





## “School for All” Project in Senegal

In 2000, the primary school enrollment rate in Senegal was 67.2%. The school completion rate, meanwhile, was less than 50%. Among the difficulties preventing children from continuing until graduation were the distance from their homes to school, the need to prioritize household work, a shortage of classroom space offering a cozy teaching/learning environment, and a high rate of absenteeism among the school teachers.

To tackle this issue, the Senegalese government drew up the Ten-Year Education and Training Plan in 2000 and began building classrooms and making other improvements to the teaching/learning environment. In 2002, Senegal’s president announced the government decision to establish school management committees in each school, consisting of representatives from such groups of stakeholders as parents, teachers, and community leaders.

The idea was that if schools and communities could come together and proactively tackle issues, they would discover existing obstacles themselves and solve their own prioritized problems. The reality, though, was that even some years later, committees were found to be ineffective or had not been set up at all in many areas. Many points were unclear to schools and communities: what exactly school

management committees were; how they should be formed; what role they would play; and how they should proceed with their activities.

### STRIKING IMPROVEMENTS IN EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

JICA—which had a significant track record of encouraging local community initiatives through school management committees in Niger, also in western Africa, since 2004—stepped in to offer new technical cooperation. In 2007, it began its Project for the Improvement of the Educational Environment in Senegal. This aimed to increase the effectiveness of school management committees in the Louga Region, where educational conditions were particularly challenging.

The project paid off with a clear improvement in access to and quality of primary education at schools with effective school management committees. Compared with before the project, the enrollment rate improved by 16.1% and the pass rate for the primary school completion exam rose by 26%. The second phase began in September 2010, with the aim of consolidating and extending a sustainable model for more effective school management



The school management committee holds a residents’ meeting to discuss needs and prepare an annual plan.

committees at the around 9,000 schools in all of Senegal’s 14 regions. As of 2011, Senegal’s national primary school enrollment rate had risen to 93.9% and the completion rate to 66.5%.

Chief advisor in Senegal Nobuhiro Kunieda, who also worked on the Niger project, started with his colleagues at the Ministry of Education by training the educational administrators at regional and departmental levels. These administrators would go on to support the establishment of school management committees and later monitor them. The committees are based on cooperation among schools and administrators, village heads, religious leaders, leaders of women’s groups, and other residents. Thanks to this broad-based participation, the undertaking has become known as the “School for All” Project.

The school management committees’ roles include holding residents’ meetings and preparing annual plans. If there are not enough desks for students, local stakeholders (including parents, teachers, and artisans) make them; they also hold campaigns promoting continued schooling for girl students. They hold supplementary classes for children who cannot keep up with regular classes and support teachers who live a long way from schools. Their resourcefulness in doing as much as possible with their limited finances is the secret of their sustained activity over the long term.

Through these actions, small changes have begun to take root throughout the country. One resident commented, “Before, only the school master and some of the parents were involved with school management, and the rest of us didn’t know what they were doing. Now, information is made public. Everybody gets involved.”

### LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT STEPS

JICA has been working hard to improve access to primary education, one of the Millennium Development Goals. Senegal today is a showcase for its success in this field. In the Fatick and Kaffrine regions, where school management committees have begun to work effectively, the teaching/learning environment enjoyed by the children and the teachers’ instruction environment are seeing solid improvements. These include the repair of classrooms and other school facilities, the organization of mock exams, and the purchase of needed learning/teaching materials. Notably, these activities do not rely on external support: all funds, resources, and labor are procured locally by schools and community residents.

In the “School for All” Project, JICA aims to go beyond simply improving access to primary education and provide a model for raising the quality of education for the post-2015 development agenda.



Residents cast votes to choose member of the school management committee (left); community-provided housing for teachers.





Employees from the Goa Public Works Department and a specialist from JICA check for leaks with "listening rods."



While water meters are installed in most homes, they often do not function properly (left). Leaks like the one from this pipe joint are a major source of water loss.

new to their counterparts. The task involved countless pipes and required an extraordinary level of persistence. Anand Watchasundar, project manager of the department, said, "The Japanese were meticulous in completing the work. We learned not only from their high level of technology but also from their diligent approach to the job."

#### TARGETING 24-HOUR WATER SUPPLY

Over two years, the 45 staff members on the three teams repeatedly discovered and repaired leaks in the state's water network. "Thanks to their efforts, NRW dropped by an average of over 20% in the three target areas," says Shinkichi Kobayashi of Nihon Suido Consultants, who worked with one of the teams. "Some of the workers have begun proactively implementing measures in other areas." As NRW was reduced, messages of gratitude came in from local residents pleased with the more reliable, higher-pressure water supply.

When you turn on a tap in India, there is no guarantee that water will flow. In some regions, water is available for just two or three hours a day, and residents have to fill their tanks during that window. The Goa Public Works Department has set an improvement target of 24-hour water availability, something that no other state has achieved. If it continues to steadily boost performance through implementation of NRW measures, this is a feasible target indeed.

#### WATER TO REMAIN A MAJOR POST-2015 ISSUE

Goal 7 of the United Nations' MDGs, focused on ensuring environmental sustainability, includes the target of securing access to safe drinking water. Water is slated to become a progressively scarcer resource as the global economy expands and the world population increases; awareness of and the focus on the wise use of limited water resources will

deepen in the post-2015 development agenda. This is particularly clear in India. Because of the country's remarkable economic development, there are clashes over water resources between citizens and between states. JICA and the Goa Public Works Department have begun efforts to share knowledge and techniques gained during the program with water authorities in other states. As a demonstration of more effective ways to use existing water resources, JICA's project in Goa is an important guidepost toward environmental sustainability in the future.

Public Works Department employees in Goa share leak-prevention techniques learned during the project with personnel from other states.



## Reduction of Non-Revenue Water in India

Goa in western India is one of the country's smallest states, with a population of around 1.5 million. It is famous for its UNESCO World Heritage churches and convents, built when it was a Portuguese colony, and its beautiful Indian Ocean beaches. Goa has become a major sightseeing destination, with 2 million visitors each year—but the state's water supply has not kept up with the demand this entails.

In 2007, JICA began cooperating on various initiatives in Goa, including installation of water treatment plants and distribution pipes. A major problem came to light at the survey stage: fully 40% of the water shipped from treatment plants, an extremely high ratio, was "non-revenue water" (NRW), the difference between the volume of water put into a water distribution system and that for which customers are billed. The causes of NRW, such as leakage due to aging pipes, theft through illegal connections, and tampering with meters, are a major impediment to effective use of water.

Japan's average nationwide NRW, at less than 10%, is extremely low by global standards. In 2011, JICA started the Capacity Development Project for Non-Revenue Water Reduction in Goa, leveraging Japanese know-how and providing technical assist-

ance to the Goa Public Works Department (PWD) to cut the ratio in the state.

#### STEADY WORK TO FIND THE LEAKS

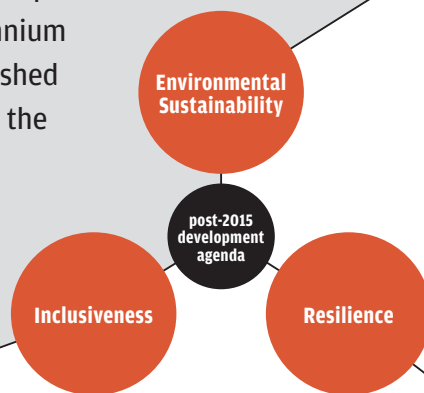
First, the project selected 45 PWD staff members and formed three teams. These teams were matched with Japanese specialists and began working on NRW reduction measures in three areas. It turned out that some of the staff had never heard of the term "non-revenue water," so the project began with the basics: an explanation of the phenomenon and the needed improvements. The PWD staff investigated household water usage, going from door to door to check water meters in gardens, establishing where pipes went within the area, and drawing up detailed maps. Until then, there had been no materials showing the number and location of water pipes.

Based on this exhaustive map of the pipe network, they began a survey to identify leakage points. In doing so, they used "listening rods," which are placed directly against underground pipes to sense leakages by picking up vibrations. The Japanese specialists accompanied the PWD staff and provided guidance in the use of the devices, which were



# Engineering a Successful Transition to Post-2015 Development

Ongoing discussions in the international community toward establishing new post-2015 development agenda goals involve accelerating the progress of Millennium Development Goals that have yet to be achieved and considering the unfinished business of the current MDGs. As part of this process, JICA has emphasized the integration of the three elements of “inclusiveness,” “resilience,” and “environmental sustainability” in new goals and targets for after 2015.



## Inclusiveness Universal Health Coverage in Thailand

Up to now, health-related MDGs have targeted specific health issues and diseases, such as improving maternal and child health and combating HIV/AIDS. As discussion shifts toward the post-2015 agenda, universal health coverage (UHC) has become a central topic. The goal of UHC is to ensure that all members of society have affordable access to a broad spectrum of health services when they need them. To achieve UHC, which is an important factor in realizing inclusive development, governments must not only look at logistical provisions of a healthcare system, such as building adequate numbers of medical facilities and securing medicine stocks, but fiscal and cost aspects as well.

Since instituting a national health insurance system in 2002, the government of Thailand has been working to maintain the quality of medical services while keeping costs under control. As part of these efforts, Thailand turned to Japan, which achieved UHC in 1961, as a source of know-how for establishing a payment system for medical fees.

With JICA's cooperation, staff from Thailand's National Health Security Office came to Japan in the fall of 2013 and received advice from the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare and other related organizations in areas including the practical organization of a medical fee payment system and techniques for coordinating implementation with local government bodies. With the backing of Japan's more than 50 years of UHC experience, the Thai government was able to launch comparative studies on payment mechanisms in October 2013. The goal is now to roll out a payment system on a nationwide basis in the near future.



Staff from Thailand's National Health Security Office during a tour at a hospital in Chiba Prefecture, Japan.

## Environmental Sustainability Creating Sustainable Cities

As urban populations around the world continue to swell, creating sustainable future cities is an increasingly vital part of ensuring environmental sustainability in years to come.

The city of Kitakyushu experienced rapid industrialization from the 1960s, eventually becoming an important center of heavy industry. However, environmental issues that emerged as a result of industrial development, such as water and air pollution and other forms of contamination, impacted civic life.

Over the decades, local environmental conditions were successfully improved through the collective efforts of residents, businesses, and the government. Since the 1980s, the city has been an important partner in the international promotion of environmental protection.

In 1981, Kitakyushu sponsored a series of pollution management seminars in Dalian, China. In the 1990s, the Kitakyushu authorities expanded this cooperation to countries in Southeast Asia.

With support from JICA, Kitakyushu began a project in 2004 in Indonesia's second largest city of Surabaya to help transform



Takakura Composting Method developer Koji Takakura demonstrates the method during a training course for participants from different Southeast Asian countries.

raw garbage into fertilizer. The Takakura Composting Method, developed by a Kitakyushu-based business, was introduced over four years to 20,000 households, resulting in a 30% reduction in landfill-bound refuse. Similar efforts to reduce solid waste are now being carried out in other Asian cities like Cebu in the Philippines and Bangkok, Thailand.

Continuing their bilateral cooperation, Kitakyushu and Surabaya in 2011 formed a strategic environmental partnership to encourage sustainable development as part of Surabaya's "green city" project. This affiliation was deepened in 2012 when the two municipalities became environmental sister cities.



Hard-fought progress toward developmental goals can be lost in an instant when natural disaster strikes. Enhancing a country's resilience against such potential risks is an essential consideration for development efforts.

El Salvador has a long history of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In January and February 2001, violent earthquakes destroyed 164,000 homes, totaling over 11% of the country's residences, causing widespread fatalities from collapsed structures, especially among poorer residents.

December 2003 saw the start of a five-year JICA project in El Salvador to enhance technology for the construction of earthquake-resistant housing for lower-income residents. As part of this project, experiments and research were conducted to increase the earthquake resistance of Salvadoran homes.

One interesting aspect of the project was the involvement of experts from Mexico, a country which itself had been a beneficiary of international cooperation in the area of earthquake-related technology from Japan after a massive temblor in 1985. The South-South efforts between Mexico and El Salvador were facilitated by Japan, thereby forming a triangular cooperation.

To ensure that earthquake-resistant structures become the norm in El Salvador, outdated building standards needed to be brought up to date. To this end, from 2009 to 2012 JICA imple-

mented a project to enhance and disseminate construction technology for quake-resistant housing in the country. In March 2014, the government of El Salvador standardized two new building techniques crafted in the course of this project. The results of this sharing of Japanese experience and knowledge illustrate how the international community is looking to Japan to help bolster resilience all around the world.



A model house under construction displaying new earthquake-resistant building techniques (upper left). A wall is tested to determine its ability to withstand an earthquake.



# The Post-2015 Agenda and JICA's Role

Stephan Klingebiel

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## A Shift Toward a Universal Agenda

JICA and other development-policy actors are currently being affected by two processes of fundamental change that are highly intertwined. Firstly, a new global development agenda is emerging that will replace the Millennium Development Goals. This agenda is set to differ significantly from the previous one, being universal in nature rather than primarily geared toward developing countries. As such, it will focus on development issues not only in countries such as Burundi and Bangladesh, but also in nations such as Japan, Germany, and Canada. In so doing, it will examine matters of environmental sustainability and other issues such as inequality (including in countries with high incomes). Consequently, the future global development agenda will have less of a traditional development-policy emphasis.

Secondly, the concept of official development assistance (ODA) is currently undergoing a process of reorientation. There are a number of reasons for this. On average, developing countries are becoming less reliant on ODA contributions. Over 50 countries have been removed from the recipient list in the last 40 years, due primarily to a process of graduation, whereby developing countries increased their GDP per capita and moved up into the next income group. Forecasts show that a further 28 countries could be taken off the list by 2030. Even the countries still on the list are making less frequent use of ODA as a source of financing. ODA flows account for just two percent or so of the international funding available for developing countries.

Dynamic middle-income countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Turkey, and Brazil are increasingly providing South-South cooperation services, not least in African nations. Additionally, where there was once a distinct boundary between developing countries as ODA recipients and prosperous industrialized nations as ODA donors, it is barely possible any longer to clearly divide the two. South Korea, which was once a major ODA recipient, has now practically switched roles completely, operating as an OECD donor country.

Ultimately, it is now less clear what goals are being pursued

with ODA than it was 15 or 20 years ago. While reducing poverty is certainly still a key challenge, it will become less of an issue in the long term given the significant progress being made in heavily populated developing countries in particular. At the same time, development cooperation actors are increasingly facing new global tasks in areas such as climate finance, global security, and international migration.

## Changing as Conditions Change

How can JICA pursue an effective policy in light of these changes?

JICA could and should assume a key role in establishing cooperation approaches that go beyond ODA and promote a comprehensive global development agenda. The post-2015 debate is the main focal point in this context. A future global agenda needs clear goals for international cooperation in order to promote the new development agenda. The agenda must not be based solely or primarily on ODA, but rather should be broader in scope. Likewise, the global agenda will not be able to work from a comparatively narrow concept of development from past development policy, but instead will need to shine a light on other universal issues such as inequality and, in particular, environmental sustainability.

In order to implement such an ambitious global development agenda, it will be necessary to establish an effective accountability mechanism for international commitments. There are a number of specific proposals as to how states can document their contributions to the provision of public goods and report these contribu-

tions internationally. For example, Japan would no longer report only on its ODA-related efforts, but also on its activities in other areas such as climate-change mitigation, security, and the promotion of measures to combat inequality. The issue would not always be whether developing countries were being supported in their efforts. Rather, based on this logic, Japan could report on all of its efforts to provide global public goods, regardless of whether developing countries were benefiting directly through contributions or not.



## Protecting Textile Workers in Bangladesh



**B**angladesh is the second largest textile producer in the world. Textiles account for 80% of the nation's exports and employ 4 million people, over three-quarters of whom are women. Unsafe conditions at factories, however, are rampant. On April 4, 2013, Rana Plaza—a nine-story building on the outskirts of Dhaka housing several factories—collapsed, killing more than 1,100. Since this tragedy, the textile sector in Bangladesh has moved quickly to protect workers by improving safety measures and working conditions.

JICA has provided support to address this issue, combining existing projects to improve buildings' earthquake resistance with loans to small and medium-sized businesses. JICA has

Signs outside Rana Plaza, where 1,100 textile workers lost their lives when the nine-story building collapsed.

set up a program to provide long-term loans at low interest rates to textile manufacturers for the purpose of improving safety of factories and reinforcing buildings against earthquakes. JICA, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Bangladesh Bank, and two industrial bodies representing 5,000 companies signed a memorandum in October 2013 to mark the start of the program.

The program plans to start a pilot case that will involve 250 companies in the textile industry. According to an executive at an industrial body: "The Rana Plaza tragedy was a major turning point for those of us in the industry as well as our customers overseas. Our focus now is on improving safety." JICA, in cooperation with Bangladeshi organizations, will continue to help improve conditions at the country's textile factories.



## Enhanced Waste Management Amid Unrest in South Sudan



**A**fter South Sudan declared independence in July 2011, Juba, the country's capital and home to 300,000 residents, faced severe environmental degradation from unregulated landfills and other improper waste disposal triggered by rapid urbanization. Since October 2011, JICA has worked to improve sanitation in the city by strengthening the waste-management capabilities of local government organizations and the South Sudan Ministry of Environment.

JICA set up pilot projects in six areas in Juba to get shops and residents to dispose of refuse at set times and locations. Scattering of refuse, bad odors, vermin outbreaks, and other environmental issues at landfills were addressed by

Refuse is loaded onto a truck at a collection site in Juba, South Sudan.

regularly packing down and covering garbage with soil. These efforts were paired with moves to make waste facilities self-sufficient through the levying of garbage fees via the collection trucks.

In December 2013, fighting broke out between opposing political factions. This conflict, combined with chronic breakdowns of the trucks, has put the continuation of the program in doubt. Nevertheless, JICA remains committed to maintaining staff locally to support the project through its scheduled completion in October 2014.

To this end, in April 2014, the deputy mayor of Juba attended a meeting in Kampala, Uganda, that saw agreement to a pilot fee collection project, an action plan for the coming year to ensure funding, and approval of a medium- to long-term waste management plan.



## South-South Cooperation to Spread the Koban System



**I**n Japan, local police boxes, known as *koban*, have for generations worked hand-in-hand with local residents to protect the safety of communities. In Timor-Leste (East Timor), the *koban* system was first introduced in 2003, a year after the country declared independence from Indonesia. The idea of establishing a *koban* system in the country was first put forward by representatives from the Timor-Leste national police (PNTL) who had participated in a JICA-organized training program in Japan.

JICA began providing support to community policing efforts of the PNTL in 2008. As part of this effort, PNTL officers received training in Japan and Japanese police visited Timor-Leste to share their *koban* knowledge and experience.

Police officers serve their community at a newly established koban in Timor-Leste.

One special aspect of the project has been the involvement of Indonesia, which introduced the *koban* system with JICA's help in 2002. In November 2013, 30 PNTL officers visited police headquarters in Jakarta's Bekasi suburb, where they received instruction in how to manage a *koban* and in the roles of community-based police. Participating officers gained hands-on experience by joining patrols around local residences and schools.

Despite the historical friction between the two countries, Indonesia has been supportive of Timor-Leste's efforts to establish a *koban* system, even going so far as to provide the PNTL with copies of the national police's manual on community policing.

JICA will continue to bolster public safety through South-South and triangular cooperation.



# Voices

F R O M   T H E   F I E L D

## Umme Aiman Siddiqi

Program Manager, JICA Malaysia Office



Aiman Siddiqi attended international school in Japan from elementary through high school and then moved to Malaysia to study at the International Islamic University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in law. Originally from Pakistan, Aiman feels her experiences put her in a unique position to “be a bridge between Japan and the rest of the world.”

Aiman has been working in JICA's Malaysia Office since 2002 and has been actively involved in South-South cooperation (SSC) projects. As Malaysia continues to develop, ODA projects are increasingly giving way to programs run under the SSC banner. “Other developing countries want to learn from the Malaysian experience,” says Aiman.

One effort unique to the JICA Malaysia office is the Third-Country Training Program on Managing Diversity in Multi-Cultural Nations. Aiman explains: “Government officials from countries recovering from conflict learn about the peace and prosperity Malaysia enjoys despite being a multicultural and multireligious nation.”

From a young age, Aiman developed a special desire to reach out to those in Africa. Through JICA she has been involved in the Zambia Investment Promotion Project: Triangle of Hope. “JICA gives me the opportunity to be involved in helping those in need,” she says.

Although an able administrator, Aiman enjoys the “sense of achievement, involvement, and trying new things” that various JICA activities provide. Her recent involvement with the JICA Partnership Program should provide ample such opportunities. “It is the first time for me to be working with the Japanese private sector, and I'm looking forward to learning a lot.”

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**Cover:** An Ethiopian  
mother who has  
benefited from prenatal  
healthcare.

**Photo on pages 2-3:**  
A woman tends a field in  
Rwanda.  
(PHOTOS: ATSUSHI  
SHIBUYA)



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