

What Japan Can Do for the World What You Can Do for the World

JICA's Overseas Volunteers



Four JICA Volunteers Working for the World

—Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), Senior Volunteers (SV), Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas, and Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas

From the President

Major changes are underway in how Japan and the country's development agency, JICA, provides assistance to the world's poorest states.

Through its Official Development Assistance (ODA), Japan has pledged to increase funding by \$10 billion over a five-year period starting in 2005, particularly in Africa.

JICA itself, which provides technical assistance in more than 150 nations and regions, is also undergoing fundamental change.

A merger between JICA and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) will be completed in fiscal 2008. The "New JICA" will be one of the world's largest bilateral aid donors with financial resources of one trillion yen (\$8.5 billion), and the merger will allow the agency to provide both technical assistance and grant and loan assistance all "under one roof" for the first time.

The organization is undergoing operational and organizational change. Greater emphasis is being placed on a field-based approach to projects, decentralizing staff, and delegating increased authority from Tokyo headquarters to overseas offices.

The recently developed concept of "human security" will empower local communities to have a greater say in their own futures by strengthening grassroots programs, such as improving education and health projects.

Based on the concept of effectiveness, efficiency, and speed, JICA introduced a Fast Track System in 2005 which will allow the organization to draw up emergency plans flexibly and efficiently and provide help more promptly to areas which have suffered natural and man-made disasters.

Domestic operations are being overhauled which will help to support and promote a more active approach to field management, and training programs for overseas participants who visit Japan each year are being revised. JICA's Global Plaza in Tokyo was opened to promote international cooperation and the wider participation of ordinary Japanese citizens and non-governmental organizations in development work.

When all of these changes are completed, it will mark the most important turning point in the history of Japan's ODA.

Sadako Ogata
President
Japan International
Cooperation Agency



JICA's volunteer program is designed to optimize volunteers' knowledge, technical know-how and valuable experience for the benefit of local people in developing countries while they live with the locals.

JICA volunteers include Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) (in 2007 the total number of JOCVs dispatched will pass the 30,000 mark), Senior Volunteers (SV), Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas, and Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas.

Volunteer activities have been spotlighted in recent years in Japan, thus encouraging many Japanese to participate in these activities in and out of Japan. While Japanese society is rapidly aging, an increasing number of people want to spend the latter parts of their lives doing something constructive, and are thus paying closer attention to volunteer activities.

In the JOCV program for applicants from the age of 20 to 39, more than 2,000 Japanese youths are now working for the benefit of local people in 77 countries all over the world, such as Ghana, Malawi, China, and Senegal (as of the end of January 2007). They are mainly assigned to governmental organizations of the partner countries as mentioned above. The term of their dispatch is basically two years. Short-term volunteers are assigned to periods of from one to ten months.

The assignments cover about 120 fields in eight categories. Volunteers with expertise in these fields, such as science and mathematics teachers, maternity nurses, and automobile mechanics, as well as schoolteachers for children with disabilities, are much in demand in many developing countries while the assigned fields vary. The fields of assistance for rural development and assistance for youth activities, which require no specific qualifications in the process of application, and HIV/AIDS control are also wanted.

Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas are assigned to provide support for the development of areas where local Japanese

communities are located, living and working with Japanese immigrants and their descendants in the communities.

The requested fields for the volunteers mainly cover education and culture and health care/social welfare. Japanese language education in particular takes up most of the requests.

In the Senior Volunteers (SV) program for applicants from the age of 40 to 69, nearly 3,000 volunteers have been dispatched to many countries in the world, and about 600 are on assignment in 53 countries.

Nine assigned fields include system engineering and computer engineering, organic farming, and wood processing, fields where full-fledged techniques are applied in Japan, as well as those of certain specialties and even personal hobbies, such as the game of igo (or go), archaeology, judo, and karate.

Like JOCVs, the volunteers are also dispatched to governmental organizations of partner countries and basically work for a one- to two-year period. The short-term volunteer program is also applied to SVs.

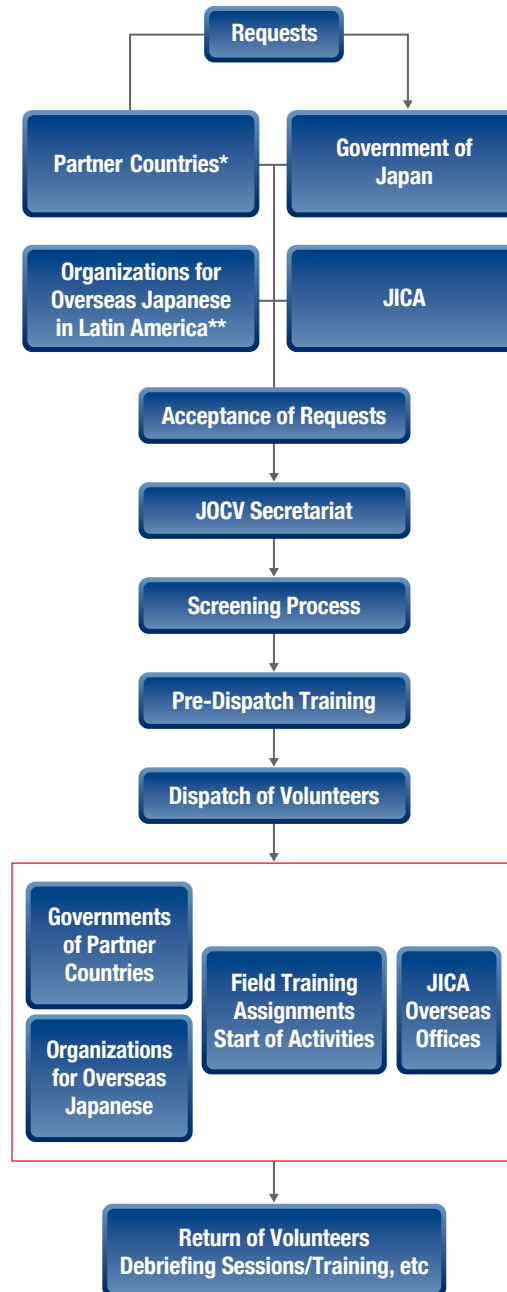
Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas work for local Japanese communities mainly in Brazil and Argentina.

Required technical know-how, knowledge and language skills vary depending on requests from partner countries. Regardless of such requests, there are many important things in common, including the aim to help others, volunteers making their own decisions, being highly motivated to pursue the goals and make them happen, maintaining strong will and passion to overcome difficulties they face, being positively integrated into local communities, carrying out volunteer activities and having a daily life in a harmonious manner, adapting to different natural and social environments, being modest to learn from others, and maintaining a flexible and open mind.

For most volunteers, it is not easy to pursue activities in different social settings, which are harsher than those of Japan, while staying in good shape. Many former volunteers say that they were more satisfied and happier than nervous during the course of their activities as they became involved in their work.

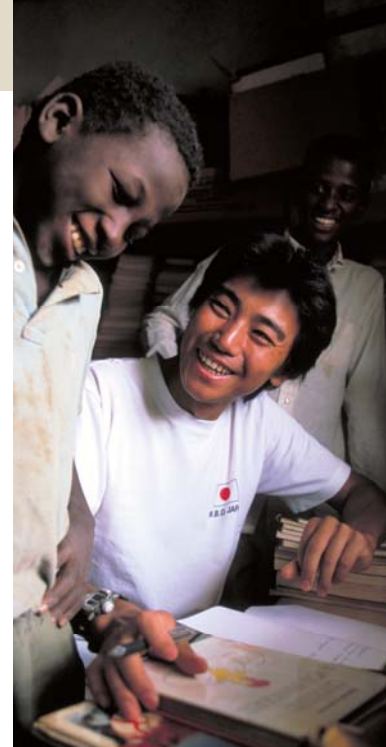
*For all dispatched volunteers, necessary expenses such as living expenses and round trip airfare (these are not salaries and/or rewards), are provided based on JICA's regulations.

JICA Volunteers Program



* JOCV and Senior Volunteers are dispatched after requests are made by governments of partner countries to the Japanese government.

** Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas and Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas are dispatched after requests are made by organizations for overseas Japanese in Latin America to JICA.



More Than 120 Fields!! All of These Assigned to JICA Volunteers

JICA dispatches Japanese volunteers who want to use their technical skills and practical experience for the benefit of developing countries as they work together with local people in those countries.

They are assigned to work in the following fields.



Planning/Administration

administrative management, law enforcement, forensics, fire fighting, urban development/planning, waste management, education policies, etc.

Few developing countries have a sufficient level of administrative systems, and knowledge and technical know-how about Japan's national and municipal systems in administration, delivered through JICA volunteer activities, help these countries in many cases.

The volunteers are assigned to administrative organizations, such as municipal governments, in developing countries, offering advice for improving the systems and providing training for administrative officers, thus providing better public services.



Education

elementary school teachers, science and mathematics teachers, Japanese language teachers, pre-school education, schoolteachers for children with disabilities, youth activities, librarians, etc.

The volunteers working in this category are expected to pursue various activities, optimizing their professional experiences in the field of education, including those dispatched to local schools and boards of education to offer advice on school management (curriculum, teachers education, etc.) for classroom activities.

Also, in some countries where Japanese language education is gaining popularity, Japanese language teachers with experience are in high demand.



Medical Care

nurses, maternal nurses, public health nurses, physiotherapists, HIV/AIDS control, etc.

In rural areas of developing countries there is an insufficient number of hospitals, and the quality of medical care in those that do operate tends to be poor, with a limited number of medical professionals. Japanese medical professionals are expected to work in medical institutions based on their medical experience as soon as they are assigned there.

Major assignments given to Japanese professionals include establishing management systems in hospitals, providing training for administrative staffers of hospitals, and conducting medical activities.



Sports

physical education, judo, kendo (the Japanese martial art of fencing), karate, table tennis, swimming, etc.

Many developing countries lack sports facilities and instructors. A shortage of instructors is a critical issue not only for national teams but also with regard to community sports for local children, which are believed to be of educational value. Some Japanese traditional martial arts, such as judo and kendo, have attracted attention overseas, and many instructors for such martial arts are in high demand.



Culture

handicrafts, Japanese flower arrangement, pottery, cooking, music, etc.

In some developing countries, skills such as handicrafts may provide women with a rare opportunity to gain income, encouraging them to live independently and promote women in development in their countries. Japanese traditional culture such as Japanese flower arrangement and pottery also contribute to promoting international exchange with different countries.



Agriculture and Fisheries

rural village development assistant, rice culture, soil improvement, anti-pest measures, husbandry, marine product processing, aquaculture, etc.

Many developing countries have various issues in agriculture and fisheries, major industries for these countries that require improvements in productivity, establishment of product distribution systems, and the introduction of agricultural and fisheries cooperatives.

Transferring Japan's technical know-how and practical experience in these fields contributes to poverty reduction for people in developing countries in a direct manner, thus improving their harvests.



Technical Skills

automobile mechanics, welding, die machining, architecture, sewing, computer engineering/technologies, Internet security, etc.

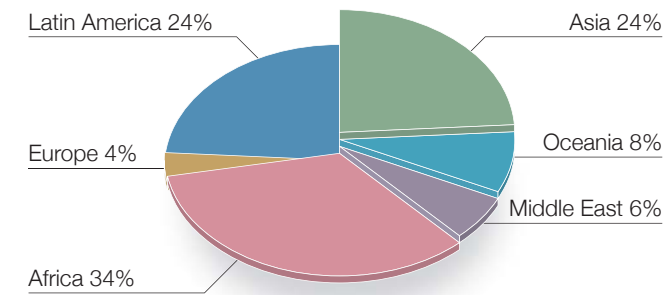
In Japan, state-of-art technologies have been introduced and computerized management has been promoted even in fields such of welding, die machining, and sewing, skills that used to rely solely on craftsmanship, thus minimizing opportunities for Japanese craftsmen. However, such skills and practical experience are in great demand in developing countries.

For upgrading the technical skills that are transferred and the quality of training, more requests for assignments have recently been made for volunteers' direct supervision and advice to counterparts and related personnel in computer-related fields.

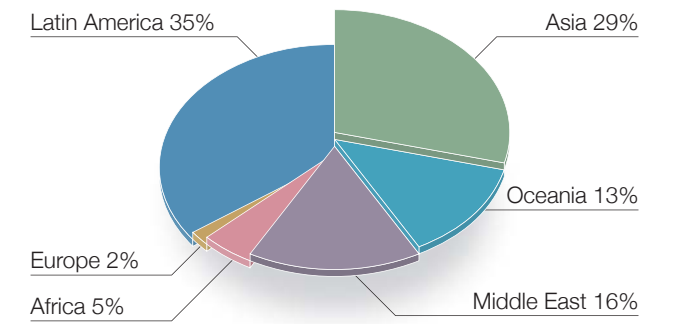
Dispatch of JICA Volunteers (As of January 2007)

	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)	Senior Volunteers (SV)	Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas	Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas	Total
Number of Countries (Assignments in Progress)	77	53	6	6	
Number of Volunteers (Assignments in Progress)	2,496	651	50	36	3,233
Total Number of Volunteers Dispatched	29,453	2,866	909	319	33,547

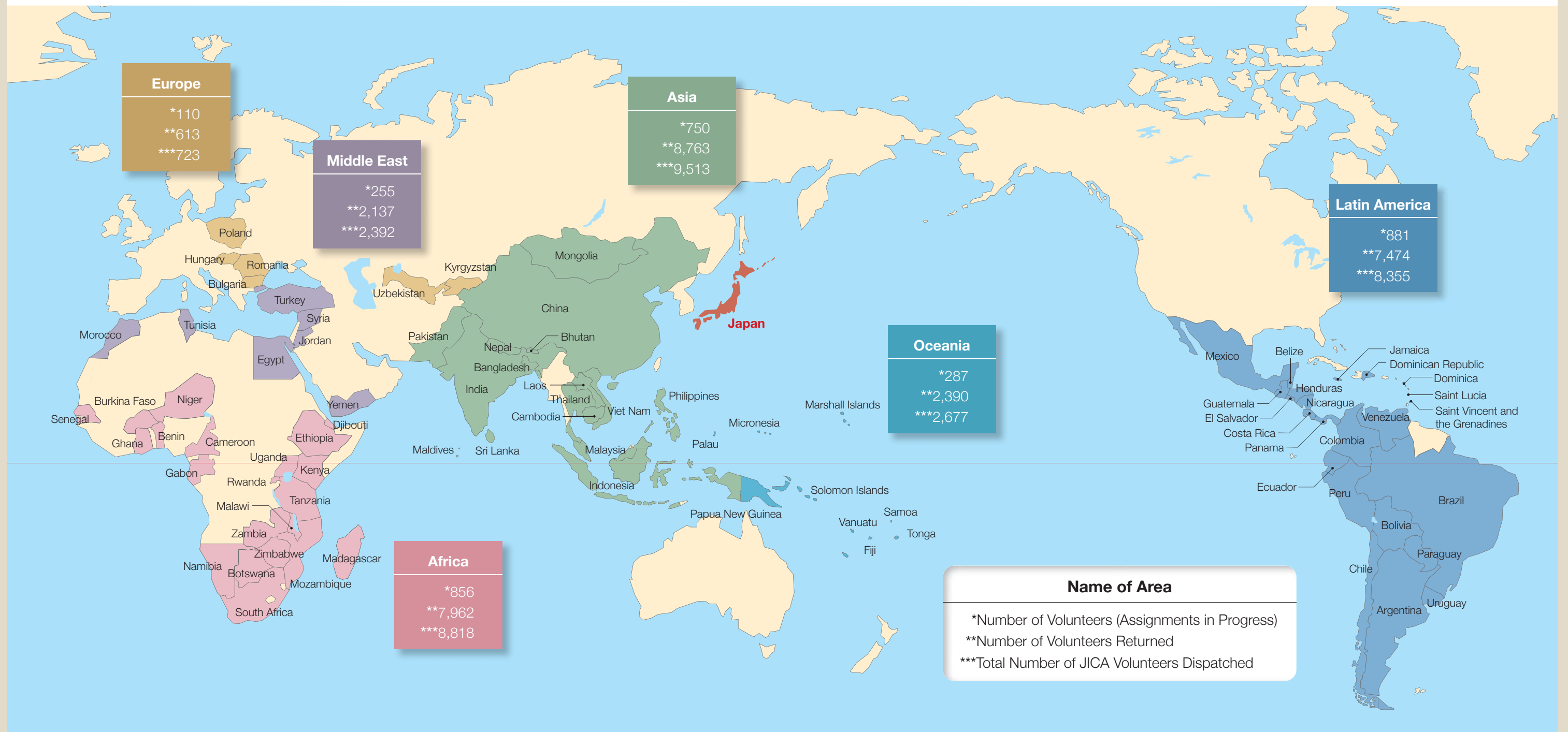
[Volunteers by Area]



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)



Senior Volunteers (SV)



Name of Area

*Number of Volunteers (Assignments in Progress)
 **Number of Volunteers Returned
 ***Total Number of JICA Volunteers Dispatched

JICA Volunteer Activities		
	JICA Volunteer Activities	Major World Events/Events in Japan
1954		Japan joins the Colombo Plan (initiating the country's international technical cooperation).
1955		Asian-African Conference (Bandung Conference) held
1956		Japan joins the United Nations.
1961		Peace Corps established in the United States
1962	Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA) established	
1964		Japan formally joins the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
1965	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program launched (April 20) First JOCVs dispatched to Laos (December 24)	
1968	Hiroo Training Center opened	
1969	JOCV's alumni association founded JOCV dispatch agreement signed with 10th country	
1971	The first JOCV alumni member posted to Yemen as a UNV	United Nations Volunteers (UNV) launched
1973	Acceptance of JOCV counterparts for training in Japan begins.	
1974	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) founded [OTCA and JEMIS (Japan Emigration Service) merged to form JICA]	
1976	Supporting Organization of JOCV established	
1979	Komagane (Nagano Pref.) Training Center opened	
1983	Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA) established	
1985	JICA hosts an Ex-Volunteers International (EVI) conference held in Japan.	
1989	JOCV dispatch agreement signed with 50th country	Japan becomes the top ODA donor among DAC countries for the first time (Japan held the top position every year, except 1990, until 2000).
1990	JICA begins Senior Cooperation Experts (presently called Senior Volunteers) dispatch activities.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issues first Human Development Report. Japan completes repayment of World Bank loans.
1992	JOCV dispatch agreement signed with 60th country	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ("Earth Summit") held ODA Charter announced
1994	Nihonmatsu (Fukushima Pref.) Training Center opened	
1995		Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
1996	Senior Cooperation Experts are renamed Senior Volunteers. Both Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas and Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas programs launched	Conference of International Volunteer Sending Organizations (IVSO) held in the United States
1997	Japan participates in IVSO for the first time.	
1998	JOCV dispatch agreement signed with 70th country	
2000		United Nations Millennium Summit held Millennium Declaration announced Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted
2003	JICA re-launched as an independent administrative institution JOCV dispatch agreement signed with 80th country	Final Report of Commission on Human Security issued New ODA Charter adopted
2004		Asian Tsunami disaster
2005	Conference of International Volunteering Cooperation Organizations (formally called IVSO) held in Japan Commemorative Ceremony for JOCV's 40th anniversary held	
2007	Total number of JOCVs dispatched will pass the 30,000 mark.	

For more details, access the JICA website.

www.jica.go.jp

For a better tomorrow for all.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Secretariat of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Shinjuku Maynds Tower Bldg., 2-1-1, Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-8558, JAPAN TEL: +81-3-5352-5311~4