

6 Support for International Cooperation of NGOs and Other Organizations

—JICA Partnership Program—



Support for Healthcare and Income in the Payatas District, the Philippines

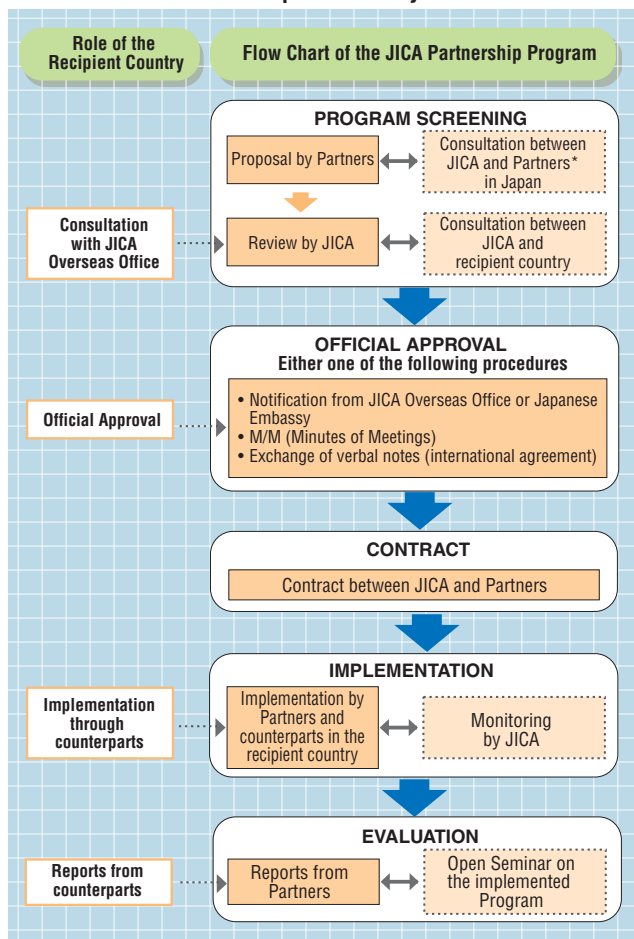
JICA Partnership Program

What is the JICA Partnership Program?

1) Background

The Japanese government offers various assistance programs to meet the diverse needs of developing countries through ODA. In international cooperation, the role of NGOs or local governments has become more important, both in Japan and in developing countries. Therefore, the JICA

Figure 3-4 Flow Chart of the JICA Partnership Program and Role of the Recipient Country



Note: Partners mean partner organization of JICA in Japan, such as NGOs, universities, local governments and public interest corporations.

Partnership Program (hereinafter referred to as “JPP”) was introduced in 2002 as a new scheme of JICA, the Japanese government agency that executes technical cooperation.

2) Objectives

JPP is a technical cooperation program implemented by JICA to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries at the grass-roots level in collaboration with partners in Japan, such as NGOs, universities, local governments, and public corporations (all hereinafter referred to as “Partners in Japan”).

The main objectives of JPP are as follows.

- Meeting the diverse needs of developing countries by utilizing the knowledge and experience of Partners in Japan for international cooperation activities
- Strengthening collaboration between communities in both developing countries and Japan by promoting the participation of Japanese citizens in international cooperation activities
- Encouraging local citizens in Japan to employ their knowledge, experience, and technologies for international cooperation activities, which in turn revitalize Japanese communities

3) Target Countries

The target countries are those that have approved the acceptance of JPP and where JICA overseas offices or JICA/JOCV offices are in place.

4) Characteristics

- The program is implemented by JICA in collaboration with Partners in Japan based on proposals submitted by the Partners.
- The recipient government’s approval is necessary prior to implementation of the program or individual projects depending on the procedures agreed upon between the two governments. Because JPP is not based on official requests from the recipient government, there is no requirement for an international agreement between the governments of the recipient country and Japan.



Expansion of the Primary Health Care Program, Timor-Leste

- c. The recipient government is not required to grant any special privileges such as tax exemptions to Partners in Japan. However, the recipient government is expected to accord the same privileges, exemptions, and benefits as those

accorded to any third country organizations or international organizations performing a similar mission in the recipient country.

Program to Support Citizen Participation in International Cooperation

Providing Information and Educational Opportunities to Citizens

In order to promote participation of citizens in its cooperation, JICA makes efforts to expand international cooperation utilizing local communities' experiences and expertise by providing various information, conducting educational campaigns for the public, promoting understanding, and encouraging participation in international cooperation.

Specifically, for individuals and organizations without experience in international cooperation, JICA provides information and educational activities that motivate them to participate in cooperation and promotes the development of an environment that makes it easier for them to participate. JICA

Front Line

Thailand SAORI Project in Thailand

Self-reliance of Persons with Disabilities

JICA Partnership Program

SAORI-HIROBA: an NPO with versatile experience

A non-profit organization called SAORI-HIROBA, or SAORI for short (headquarters in Osaka) conducts various activities that transcend national borders, including the development of leaders and participation in art festivals for persons with disabilities, through hand-woven crafts that allow them to freely express themselves.

In October 2002, SAORI started a project for creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and improving cash income of the hill-tribe people mainly in Chiang Mai, located in the north part of Thailand, as a JICA Partnership Program with NGOs, Local Governments and Institutes (forerunner of JICA Partnership Program).

Implementation of a wide range of activities through hand-weaving

Those who graduated from schools for children with disabilities and youths who go to rehabilitation centers gather at

the SAORI Creative Center (SCC) in Chiang Mai to engage in creative hand-weaving activities using thread that has been plant-dyed by the hill-tribes. The SCC not only provides rehabilitation using hand-weaving, but also makes efforts in developing products and sales routes to help them achieve economic self-reliance.

In Bangkok, SAORI conducts community-based rehabilitation (CBR) together with a counterpart, the Foundation for Children with Disabilities (FCD) in an effort to promote family and community understanding of persons with disabilities. Recently, the number of lectures and workshops SAORI provide in the course of special education at the National Education University of Thailand has increased, and efforts are being made to develop quality young education personnel and volunteers who will work to address the issues surrounding persons with disabilities.

On December 3, 2003, International Day of Disabled Persons, an opportunity was given to SAORI to exhibit a large hand-woven work at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and in



SAORI Creative Center in Chiang Mai

March 2004 SAORI's small exhibition sales corner was placed in the sales department of UN-ESCAP.

We plan to enhance collaboration with many other NGOs, educational institutions and local governments through creative activities to expand opportunities for persons with disabilities so that they may take part in society. At the same time, we will focus on developing human resources who can manage the parents' group, which assumes the central role in the activity of SCC.

(JICA Thailand Office)

holds seminars and workshops with the help of those who already have experience in international cooperation. For those who have experience in cooperation but do not have a solid organizational and technical foundation, JICA promotes capacity development through the provision of training opportunities.

■ JICA Coordinators for International Cooperation Assume Significant Role

These types of educational campaigns and the development of an environment through the Program to Support Citizen Participation in International Cooperation are important for properly reflecting citizens' ideas about international cooperation. This will eventually promote understanding and participation of the motivated citizens in international cooperation, respond to the will of the citizens to participate in international cooperation, and expand and upgrade international cooperation by new actors. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to continue to implement the program as a priority.

The role of JICA coordinators for international cooperation, who are dispatched to prefectural international exchange



Community Development Project through Fair-trade Practice in Letefoho sub-district of Ermera, Timor-Leste

associations throughout Japan, is significant in promoting such citizen participation. Coordinators give advice to individual citizens, NGOs, and local governments, who are interested in international cooperation. We have witnessed some citizens, local governments, and NGOs taking a step forward to international cooperation through their interaction with coordinators. In order to expand international cooperation from the local level, the role of the coordinators for international cooperation is expected to increase even more in the future.

Front Line

● Hyogo Build-up Sustainable Ecosystem through Reforestation and Agroforestry Protection of a Stairway to Heaven

JICA Partnership Program

First case of JICA Partnership Program

Since March 2003, the IKGS Reforestation Campaign, Inc., an NPO located in Sannan-cho, Higami-gun, Hyogo prefecture, has implemented a project to protect rice terraces in Ifugao, the Philippines, which is listed as a World Heritage Site. It is the first project of the JICA Partnership Program.

Rice Terraces in Ifugao Province are so beautiful that they are called "stairways to heaven", and they have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. However, in recent years, the forest stretching above the rice terraces, which have long been the water source in the area, has been degraded and is losing water-retaining capacity due to the slash-and-burn agriculture and excess logging carried out over a long period of time. The IKGS Reforestation Campaign, Inc. does not directly repair the rice terraces; instead, they undertake projects focusing on agroforestry as a new income source for the local people in substitution

for the slash-and-burn agriculture and forestation in order to sustain livelihoods in the area deprived of trees, and these activities are carried out by developing model farms and model forests, respectively.

Learning together through personal interaction

In September 2003, the governor of Ifugao Province and three other officials were invited to a rice terrace international exchange event held in Hyogo. Through personal interaction with those who live in rice terrace agriculture communities in Hyogo, both sides re-acknowledged the importance of learning together rather than through the one-way provision of assistance. This event enhanced interaction between the people from both Ifugao and Hyogo in this project.

Since the commencement of the project, one year has passed and both model farms and model forests have been developed. Looking closely at the model sites, local citizens have become more interest-



Conservation activity while promoting voluntary participation of local citizens

ed, and many have voluntarily participated in the project. In fiscal 2004, an environmental education program targeting local people started under the initiative of college students from Hyogo who have participated in the local activities as volunteers.

The local people's awareness of environment has been raised, and we are now approaching step by step the establishment of an ideal system where local citizens participate voluntarily in conservation activities.

(Hyogo International Center)