

# Overview of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

## ■ Background

Japan joined the Colombo Plan in 1954 and started providing technical cooperation to developing countries. During the reconstruction period following the devastation of World War II, Japan returned to the international community by joining the United Nations in 1956. Entry to the Colombo Plan was the beginning of Japan's return to the international community and an epoch-making event that proved Japan's status as a technical aid-providing country in the international community at the time. Initial technical cooperation started in the forms of acceptance of technical training participants from and dispatch of experts to other Asian countries in the way of commissions to the Japan Asian Association. As Japan's economy and society developed, expectations for expanded cooperation from Japan rose. Accordingly, as cooperation activities were extended to the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, the scale of cooperation increased.

Starting around 1955, a system was adopted to combine various forms of cooperation such as acceptance of technical training participants, dispatch of experts, and provision of equipment, all of which were previously implemented individually, for more effective technology transfer\*. More planned technical cooperation programs were implemented after facilities such as research institutes and educational institutions, sites for technology transfer, as well as equipment were upgraded with financial assistance.

In the midst of the expansion of cooperation programs, the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA) was established in 1962 to comprehensively and effectively implement various activities that were previously implemented by different organizations individually. The establishment made a foundation for implementing Japan's technical cooperation programs in a unified form. On the other hand, overseas emigration programs restarted when the San Francisco Peace Treaty came into effect in 1952. Due to a subsequent decrease in the number of newly emigrated Japanese people, the focus of the programs gradually shifted from dispatching new emigrants to assisting emigrants living overseas. In 1963, with the establishment of the Japan Emigration Service, a system was established to consistently dispatch new emigrants and assist emigrants already living overseas.

Japan's high economic growth during the 1960s and 1970s prompted the expansion of Japan's aid in quantity, which accompanied various discussions on how Japanese assistance should be provided. Under these circumstances, the idea of establishing an organization to implement Japan's international cooperation programs in a unified form was born. In 1974, a decision was made to establish the Japan International Cooperation Agency by

taking on the responsibilities earlier held by the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency, the Japan Emigration Service, and the Overseas Agricultural Development Association, as well as part of the responsibilities held by the Japan Overseas Development Corporation.

The law concerning the establishment of the new agency came into effect as law No. 62 in May 1974, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was officially established on August 1, 1974.

Though JICA was established as a special public institution, a policy of reforming special public institutions was announced in subsequent deliberations on administrative reforms, followed by a decision to transform JICA into an independent administrative institution according to Japan's administrative reform plan in December 2001. Subsequent to the promulgation of law No. 136 in December 2002, JICA became an independent administrative institution on October 1 of the following year, and was reorganized into an implementing body for international cooperation, which requires greater results-orientation and accountability\*.

## ■ Expansion and Diversification of Programs

JICA's programs in the beginning included technical cooperation, dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), development investment and financing, emigration service, and training and securing aid personnel. Later, with the development of the Japanese economy and technological progress, JICA was expected to expand and diversify its programs. As a result, various cooperation programs were added, including Promotion of Implementing Grant Aid Projects (fiscal 1978), Youth Invitation (fiscal 1984), Disaster Relief (fiscal 1987), and Aid Efficiency Promotion (fiscal 1988).

Technical cooperation that has been implemented since the establishment of JICA has also been diversified. Various kinds of activities have been started, including third-country training\* (fiscal 1974), research cooperation (fiscal 1977), joint technical cooperation with international organizations (fiscal 1981), acceptance of technical training participants as part of the Look East Policy of Malaysia (fiscal 1982), cooperation with the ASEAN Human Resources Development Center (fiscal 1982), dispatch of skilled workers from the private sector (fiscal 1987), local in-country training\* (fiscal 1993), dispatch of third-country experts\* (fiscal 1994), dispatch of private sector advisors (fiscal 1996), acceptance of technical training participants in the welfare sector under the Japan-Latin America Friendship Program (fiscal 1996), capital aid cooperation experts (fiscal 1997), capital aid cooperation senior advisors (fiscal 1997), long-term training partici-

pants (fiscal 1999), technical advisors for implementation of grant aid projects (fiscal 1999), and the JICA Partnership Program (fiscal 2002). When JICA became an independent administrative institution in October 2003, a review of whole programs resulted in the abolishment of development investment and financing, emigration services, settlement programs, and emigration loan programs.

Along with the diversification of programs, 27.2 billion yen of the operating budget at the time of establishment reached 161.2 billion yen in fiscal 2004. Overseas offices increased from 40 at the time of establishment to 90 (described later in detail) in fiscal 2003.

In terms of number of people involved, the number of training participants accepted increased from 2,169 in fiscal 1974 to 15,701 in fiscal 2003; the number of dispatched experts increased from 513 in fiscal 1974 to 2,946 in fiscal 2003; and the number of JOCVs dispatched increased from 208 in fiscal 1974 to 1,310 in fiscal 2003.

As a result of the expansion of programs, 277,541 training participants have been accepted, and 71,533 experts and 26,399 JOCVs dispatched in total to date.

## ■ Upgrading and Expanding the Organization

At the time of its establishment in 1974, JICA consisted of 17 departments, one office, and one secretariat at the headquarters; 12 branches and eight affiliate agencies in Japan; one overseas representative department; 14 overseas offices; nine overseas branches; and 16 JICA/JOVC offices. In fiscal 2004, it consists of 19 departments, three offices, and two secretariats at the headquarters; 12 international centers, three branches, two JOCV training centers, and the Institute for International Cooperation in Japan; 56 overseas offices; 22 JICA/JOVC offices; and 12 JOVC offices.

The headquarters office was previously located in the Shinjuku Mitsui Building (excluding a short period at the time of establishment) in Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, and the JOCV Secretariat was in Hiroo, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. In April 1996, the headquarters and JOCV Secretariat moved to the Shinjuku Maynds Tower in Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, where they are currently located.

There have been several major changes in the structure of the headquarters. At the time of the establishment, there were four emigration-related sections. These were integrated into one department in 1994 and the operations of the department was discontinued in October 2003, when JICA became an independent administrative institution according to Japan's administra-

tive reform plan, which was approved in 2001. On the other hand, new departments, including the Grant Aid Project Management Department (currently Grant Aid Management Department) and the Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team, were set up in order to implement new programs. In fiscal 1999, major structural reform was carried out in order to strengthen country- and region-specific approaches, follow-ups, and evaluation systems. New departments, including Regional Department I (Southeast Asia and Indo-China), Regional Department II (East, Southwest, Central Asia; the Caucasus and Oceania), Regional Department III (Latin America and the Caribbean), and Regional Department IV (Africa, Middle East and Europe), were set up.

In addition, in April 2004, eight departments in charge of program implementation, which had been categorized by field such as agriculture and medical care, were reorganized into five departments in terms of development issues such as global environment and human development, which overlap fields horizontally. At the same time, in order to correspond to program implementation, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, four regional departments were reorganized into five departments. As a result, the headquarters consists of 19 departments, three offices, and two secretariats as of fiscal 2004.

As for domestic offices, the Institute for International Cooperation for developing human resources opened in 1983, the emigration training center was closed in 1989, international centers opened by integrating offices in service of the same area (for example, the Tsukuba International Centre was set up by integrating the Tsukuba International Centre and the Tsukuba International Agricultural Training Centre in 1996), and measures were taken to correspond to the structural rationalization (for example, the Nihonmatsu Training Centre opened in 1996 to replace the Kansai Branch Office that was closed). As a result, as of fiscal 2004, domestic offices consist of 12 international centers, three branches, two training centers, and the Institute for International Cooperation.

Overseas offices, which numbered 40 at the time of establishment, were subsequently set up in countries such as Zimbabwe, Mongolia, South Africa, Palestine, and Uzbekistan as the programs expanded. In fiscal 2003, the Afghanistan Office opened. When dispatching JOCVs to countries without a JICA office, we employ a volunteer coordinator. On the other hand, the Latin America Representative Office (located in Brazil) was closed in 1981, as well as offices in Los Angeles, Sudan, Canada, and Brunei Darussalam. As a result, as of fiscal 2004, there are 56 overseas offices, 22 JICA/JOVC offices, and 12 JOVC offices.



## 56 Overseas Offices

### Overseas offices supervised by Regional Department I (Southeast Asia)

JICA Indonesia Office
JICA Viet Nam Office
JICA Cambodia Office
JICA Thailand Office
JICA Philippines Office
JICA Malaysia Office
JICA Myanmar Office
JICA Laos Office

### Overseas offices supervised by Regional Department II (East, Southwest, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Oceania)

JICA India Office
JICA Sri Lanka Office
JICA China Office
JICA Nepal Office
JICA Pakistan Office
JICA Bangladesh Office
JICA Mongolia Office
JICA Uzbekistan Office
JICA Samoa Office
JICA Papua New Guinea Office
JICA Fiji Office

### Overseas offices supervised by Regional Department III (Latin America and the Caribbean)

JICA Argentina Office
JICA Colombia Office
JICA Chile Office
JICA Dominican Republic Office
JICA Panama Office
JICA Paraguay Office
JICA Brazil Office
JICA Peru Office
JICA Bolivia Office
JICA Honduras Office
JICA Mexico Office
JICA USA Office

### Overseas offices supervised by Regional Department IV (Africa)

JICA Ethiopia Office
JICA Ghana Office
JICA Kenya Office
JICA Zambia Office
JICA Zimbabwe Office
JICA Senegal Office
JICA Cote d'Ivoire Office
JICA Tanzania Office
JICA Nigeria Office
JICA Malawi Office
JICA Madagascar Office
JICA South Africa Office
JICA Mozambique Office

### Overseas offices supervised by Regional Department V (Middle East and Europe)

JICA Egypt Office
JICA Tunisia Office
JICA Morocco Office
JICA Afghanistan Office
JICA Saudi Arabia Office
JICA Jordan Office
JICA Syria Office
JICA Turkey Office
JICA Palestine Office
JICA Austria Office
JICA France Office
JICA UK Office

## 19 Domestic Offices

### International Centers

Sapporo International Center
Obihiro International Center
Tsukuba International Center
Tokyo International Center
Hachioji International Center
Yokohama International Center
Chubu International Center
Osaka International Center
Hyogo International Center
Chugoku International Center
Kyushu International Center
Okinawa International Center

### JOCV Training Centers

Nihonmatsu Training Center
Komagane Training Center
Hiroo Training Center

### Domestic Branch Offices

Tohoku Branch Office
Hokuriku Branch Office
Shikoku Branch Office

Institute for International Cooperation
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