

Support for Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants

Supporting Japanese emigrants to ensure a stable life



Junior high school students from Sendai visiting the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum

Current Support for Japanese Emigrants and Their Descendants

Japanese emigration after the end of World War II was restarted with emigration to the Amazon in Brazil in 1952. There are now thought to be more than 2.6 million Japanese emigrants and their descendants (Nikkei) living abroad and they are now play-

ing key roles in their countries' development in various fields. Their presence has helped build closer bilateral relationships, and now that Nikkei communities have entered their maturity, they are important partners in international cooperation.

Major Activities

Introducing the activities of Japanese emigrants and their descendants, JICA disseminates knowledge to deepen the Japanese public's understanding of Japanese emigration and Nikkei communities.

JICA also supports Japanese emigrants and their descendants by offering follow-up assistance for their settlement and stable life, prioritizing development of children of emigrants, including Japanese language education, welfare for the aged, etc.

JICA dispatches volunteers to Nikkei communities and receives Nikkei training participants as well.

Public Relations

- 1) **Backing up the Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad**
- 2) **Management of the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum:** The Japanese Overseas Migration Museum and a library with materials related to emigration opened at JICA Yokohama in October 2002. The museum presents a history of Japanese emigration and the development of Nikkei communities, etc., under the basic theme of "We have taken part in molding new civilizations in the Americas." The purpose is to promote greater understanding for Japanese emigrants and Nikkei among the public, especially the young generation who will lead the future.

Support for Emigrants Abroad

- 1) **Extension of farming systems:** To improve farm management skills, JICA implements training in the region of advanced agricultural technology, provides subsidies to foster agricultural study groups, etc.
- 2) **Medical care and hygiene:** JICA assists in the management of five clinics for emigrants in Paraguay and Bolivia, and circuit medical treatment in remote areas of Brazil.
- 3) **Education and culture:** In order to develop and secure Japanese-language teachers, JICA assists in joint training for teachers in each country, rewards Japanese-language teachers and purchases teaching materials, co-hosts joint training for Pan-American Japanese-language teachers, supports research

activities in Japanese language, develops Japanese textbooks for Spanish-speaking youth, etc. The joint training for Pan-American Japanese-language teachers has been held every year in São Paulo, Brazil since fiscal 2004 and 30 teachers participated in fiscal 2006.

- 4) **Upgrading facilities and equipment:** To support improvements in social welfare and living infrastructure, JICA subsidized the purchase of medical equipment for two clinics in Paraguay and one clinic in Bolivia in fiscal 2006.

Additionally, in fiscal 2006, special assistance projects for emigrants in the Dominican Republic were implemented. The projects included (1) voluntary disposition of a student dormitory to the Nikkei community, (2) subsidies for the renovation project of the student dormitory for multi-purpose use, the elderly medical and hygiene care program, and the university scholarship program, and (3) short-term domestic training in Japan for young Nikkei leaders.

Human Development of Children of Emigrants

- 1) **Scholarship for Japanese Immigrants and Their Descendants in Latin America:** To develop human resources who will lead the future Nikkei communities, JICA provides scholarships for living expenses, school expenses, etc., for the Nikkei students who study at Japanese graduate schools. Fourteen students were approved for scholarships in fiscal 2006.
- 2) **Training for students of Japanese language schools:** To develop human resources who will forge the next generation of Nikkei communities, outstanding students of Japanese language schools managed by Nikkei organizations are invited to Japan to attend junior high schools and carry out home-stays where they gain firsthand experience in Japanese culture and society. Forty-nine students took part in fiscal 2006.

Business Loans

JICA's loans to emigrants and Nikkei organizations for the purpose of settlement and stability were terminated in fiscal 2005.