

# Research

Systematize and share field experiences



JICA's study reports concerning measures to address aging societies in developing countries and study on Southeast Asian Region, and its journal, *Technology and Development*

## Outline of Research Projects

JICA conducts research activities on development issues and development assistance in order to realize efficient and high quality assistance. The Institute for International Cooperation (IFIC) plays a central role in JICA's research activities. In the stream of JICA reforms, one of the pillars of which is field based management, IFIC identifies itself as JICA's practical think tank.

Clues to effective aid activities can be derived from practical experiences, knowledge, and awareness of the issues obtained from field experiences. In order to combine knowledge with how to address development issues, IFIC absorbs and systematizes knowledge, skills, and awareness of the issues, all of which have been gained through field experiences. Then, IFIC disseminates and shares the outcome both within and outside of JICA through workshops and various forms of training so that more related personnel can utilize the study results. In fiscal 2006, in particular, the effectiveness of JICA's technical cooperation program was assessed and the result was disseminated outside of the organization in an effort to enhance outgoing information.

In addition, IFIC analyzes and gives recommendations to address new development issues, systematizes information on aid trends and the deployment of development theories, and proactively disseminates the results outside of JICA. It also works on the development of cross-cutting program methods for social surveys and aid management.

### Results for Fiscal 2006

JICA's research activities in fiscal 2006 rested on three pillars: systematization of project experience, analysis of and recommendation for new development issues, and development of cross-cutting program methods.

- 1) Systematization of project experience:** For the purpose of assessing and disseminating the effectiveness of JICA's technical cooperation, individual cases of Strengthening of Science and Mathematics Education Projects, which are widely implemented, were studied, and discussions on the roles of technical cooperation in financial assistance were sorted out. In addition, in order to obtain collective knowledge for more effective and efficient technical cooperation projects, six cases (three continuing and three new) in capacity development (CD) were studied. The results of CD case studies have been utilized for outgoing information about JICA's technical cooperation.
- 2) Analysis of and recommendation for new program strategic issues:** Low birthrate and the aging society was analyzed as a new development issue in developing countries

and a report was compiled. At the same time, the issue was discussed at a public seminar to draw attention from domestic researchers. In addition, study and research on measures against and JICA's support policy for global warming were conducted.

- 3) Development of cross-cutting program methods:** Training material for JICA staff and experts, "Shakai Chosa no Kokoroe to Tsukaikata" (clues to and application of social survey) was compiled covering the clues and points to remember when conducting social surveys in JICA projects.

In fiscal 2006, a total of 24 studies and research projects were conducted and those results were utilized for outgoing information and feedback to the field.

### Expansion of the Network within and outside of JICA

Research activities involve study committees, which consist of senior advisors and staff members of JICA, with occasional participation of external academics affiliated with universities and research institutes. In addition, a guest researcher program that entrust research on specific issues to knowledgeable experts has been established. These activities contribute significantly to the formation of networks between JICA and related institutions while also fulfilling their primary objective of assisting in the preparation of country, regional, and thematic guidelines. The implementation of research on assistance in Southeast Asia in fiscal 2006 led to enhanced collaboration with the ASEAN Strategic Research Center Group.

IFIC annually publishes a journal entitled "Technology and Development," whose articles are selected and translated from the Japanese edition "Kokusai Kyoryoku Kenkyu," and which solicits articles widely from field workers and researchers engaged in international cooperation. In addition to regular research papers, the journal contains a section called "Field Note" that actively incorporates field experiences, thus providing opportunities to share information thoroughly within and outside of JICA.

In fiscal 2006, Professor Barnett R. Rubin, PhD., Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the Center on International Cooperation of New York University, was invited to conduct a seminar on peacebuilding in Afghanistan, as part of JICA's efforts to expand the network with external academics. This effort will be enhanced in fiscal 2007 by inviting more prominent researchers from overseas to teach seminars.