Videoconference with multi-countries

JICA-Net

Beyond the Restrictions of Time and Distance A New Form of International Cooperation

JICA-Net is a distance Technical Cooperation project promoted by JICA. It uses a wide range of information and communication technologies including multimedia contents, videoconferencing, and Internet applications, so as to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of JICA projects.

JICA-Net was launched in response to the Japanese Government Initiative announced at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000. With growth in the storage of multimedia-based learning materials as well as distance lecture materials, and expansion in overseas videoconference facilities, the benefits of these tools have become more widely recognized, resulting in an upswing in the number of users. As for videoconferencing statistics, it showed over 4,000 activities, more than 9,000 connection hours, and over 57,000 participants. Videoconference systems have been installed at 19 organizations in Japan, including JICA's headquarters, and in 65 overseas offices. Not only internal connection, but external connection with the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network is possible through the videoconference network.

The distance Technical Cooperation, JICA-Net, has been acknowledged by people engaged in JICA activities for the following reasons.

Distance Lectures and Seminars Implementation

When Japanese experts cannot be dispatched to developing countries, distance lectures/seminars or regional distance workshops allow them access to Technical Cooperation. Connecting with multi-countries, the videoconference system contributes to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of JICA activities.
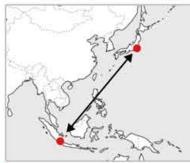
Multimedia-based Learning Materials Development

Multimedia-based learning materials incorporate a variety of media including video, photographs and text recorded on CD-ROMs or DVD to store invaluable JICA project information in digital format. They are used to share JICA knowledge and experience with developing countries and people engaged in JICA activities, and are mainly developed for Technical Cooperation use. JICA has produced over 100 materials, such as "Agroforestry, agriculture that cultivates forest - producing in harmony with nature of the Amazon" that concisely shows the benefits to accrue from a combination of forest preservation with farm management, and "Skills Make Your Dreams Come True," that includes a collection of interviews in both English and Arabic with people who have graduated from vocational training schools and are working in companies.

Sharing Digital Contents on the Web

JICA stores digital contents not only of distance lectures and seminars such as syllabus and lecture materials but also of multimedia-based learning materials. People working for JICA all over the world can browse and reuse them via the web. The website also introduces good examples of distance Technical Cooperation and how to utilize contents in JICA activities, helping to promote its use. (JICA-Net URL: http://jica-net.jica.go.jp/dspace/)

A distance Lecture using videoconference system