

# Human Development

## Helping People the World Over to Lead Richer Lives



Of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), relevant goals are shown in color.

The international community is making concerted efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were established as the goals for the 21st century. Yet there are as many as 69 million out-of-school children around the world,

and 165 out of 1,000 infants in Afghanistan cannot survive their first year. These and other facts indicate that there are still many people who are unable to live decent lives.

With the aim of enabling people to live healthy and creative lives each day and seek their own meaningful goals, JICA has been cooperating in the fields of education, healthcare, and social security, based on the concept of human security.

## Education

### Overview of Issue

Education is the cornerstone of all development. Acquiring knowledge and skills through education enables people to open up and improve their prospects in life. In addition, people's building of their own capacities promotes poverty reduction, economic growth, and scientific and technological development. Furthermore, the promotion of mutual understanding across all religions and ethnic groups is essential for the stability and peace of the world, and education plays an important role in this regard as well.

Developing countries, however, face many problems both in terms of the quantity and quality of their education. Although the number of children not attending school has decreased by as many as 36 million compared with 1999, 69 million children are still not attending school. In addition, in the least developed countries, one third of the children who enroll in elementary schools drop out before graduation. On the other hand, although the demand for secondary education has been increasing in line with the expansion of primary education, the enrollment rate of secondary education has remained low.

In addition to primary and secondary education, interest in higher education has been increasing rapidly in recent years. There are considerable expectations for higher education institutions to play a central role in responding to the needs of the knowledge-based society in each country by such means as creating knowledge and innovation (research), developing human resources that drive socioeconomic development (education), and resolving development issues that are becoming increasingly complex in keeping with the steady globalization of the economy and society, as well as by returning benefits to industry and society (social contribution), with a focus on post-Education for All (EFA) and post-MDGs period.

The enhancement of partnerships between universities in Japan and those in Asia in particular is important for Japan as well, from the perspective of promoting the internationalization of higher education institutions as well as of boosting economic growth in the region through the fostering of the highly skilled human

resources required by industry. On the other hand, in reality, many institutions of higher education in the developing countries face issues such as shortages of sufficiently qualified academic staff and of facilities and equipment for education and research, making it difficult for them to provide high-quality education and research activities. In addition, as it has been pointed out that inconsistencies between the dissemination of higher education and employment contributed to the pro-democracy movement in the Middle East that has been active since the end of 2010, education that leads to employment that matches the needs of society and industry is becoming increasingly important.

### JICA Activities

#### 1. Basic Education

Basic education refers to education that provides basic knowledge and skills such as reading, writing and numeracy, and includes not only primary and secondary education but also early childhood development and non-formal education (including literacy education and community education).

Developing countries are facing diverse issues in the basic education sector. Among them JICA places a particular priority on the three issues of 1) enhancement of access to primary and secondary education, 2) improvement of the quality of primary and secondary education, and 3) improvement of education management (education administration and school management).

Specifically, JICA is promoting cooperation with a focus on i)



Training conducted at the Juba Multi-Service Training Center (South Sudan)

capacity building of teachers through the improvement of teacher training, ii) establishment of participatory school management systems that involve the community, iii) construction of school facilities by local contractors, and iv) capacity development of administrative officers of central and local governments in charge of education, which is essential for sustaining the effects produced by these other efforts [→ See the Case Study on page 55].

In particular, in the Sub-Saharan African countries that are the least-developed in the area of education, JICA is providing focused and comprehensive support in accordance with the Yokohama Action Plan that was announced at the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May 2008,

for i) expansion of access (provision of educational opportunities to about 400,000 children through construction of 1,000 elementary and secondary schools with 5,500 classrooms), ii) improvement of the quality of education (provision of training for 100,000 science and mathematics teachers), and iii) improvement of school management (expansion of the School for All project, a community-participatory model for improving school management, to 10,000 schools).

It is the responsibility of the international community to provide support to enable as many people as possible in the developing countries to receive quality education. JICA is continuing to provide steady support for basic education toward 2015, the target year of the EFA and MDGs.

## 2. Higher Education

Higher education is positioned as the final stage of a country's education system. With a view to improving the quality, quantity and equality of higher education, which have been attracting particular attention in recent years, JICA is implementing efficient and effective projects with the cooperation of Japanese universities. With the main targets being the core universities that play a leading role in promoting the higher education sector of each respective country or region, JICA provides support for the improvement of their education and research capabilities through such means as improving the capabilities of academic staff, improving the campus and the education and research equipment, enhancing the university's governing structure, promoting industry-academia-community links, and establishing a network between universities.

In Asia, while focusing support on the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network Project (AUN/SEED-Net), JICA is also extending cooperation to other core universities as necessary, and endeavoring to foster highly-skilled human resources through



Children working in groups in an arithmetic class  
(Senegal: Strengthening Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Project (PREMST))

long-term training in the formal courses at Japanese graduate schools [→ See the Case Study on page 100]. In the Middle East and Africa, JICA extends its cooperation with a focus on support for Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) that was partially opened in February 2010.

In conjunction with its support for higher education, JICA also provides support to the core technical education institutions in each country in order to enable them to promptly foster and turn out human resources that can respond to the diverse needs for technology and skills that change according to the stage of industrial development.

## Health and Medical Services

### Overview of Issue

In developing countries, many people lose their lives because they are not able to receive adequate health care or medical services. In the health sector, it is generally recognized that it will be difficult to achieve health-related MDGs by 2015 despite the large contribution made by various partners including donor countries, private funds, and international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO). The Government of Japan has also committed its continuous support to address these issues at TICAD IV, the MDGs meetings and at other fora. JICA is addressing issues such as the improvement of maternal and child health, infectious disease control, and strengthening health systems, in coordination with other actors involved in global health issues.

### JICA Activities

#### 1. Improving Maternal and Child Health

Approximately 99% of the 360,000 pregnant women who die during pregnancy or childbirth and the 8.1 million children who

die before reaching their fifth birthday every year live in developing countries. This fact indicates that the health and well-being of pregnant women and young children is one of the most serious issues facing the developing countries.

JICA is supporting developing countries in strengthening health systems to provide “Continuum of Care for MCH”\* by improving the quality of health care and medical services and ensuring access to such services. Specifically, JICA is supporting the promotion of antenatal care for pregnant women in the interest of safe delivery, upgrading health and medical facilities, strengthening of communication and collaboration among different levels of health and medical facilities, creating human resources for health and medical services such as midwives, and other measures [ → See the Case Study on page 17].

In fiscal 2010, JICA started the Project for Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Services in Eastern Visayas in



Community activity to confirm the location of the homes of pregnant women on the map, and consider support for maternal and child health (Bangladesh)

\* Continuum of Care for MCH is defined as continuous care that considers the chronological flow of stages such as the pre-pregnancy (including adolescence and family planning), pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium periods, and the neonatal, infant, and childhood periods collectively as a single unit, as well as care provided with families, communities, primary health and medical facilities and secondary and tertiary health and medical facilities all linked and supplementing one another in a continuous manner.

## Case Study

## ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network Project (Phase 2)

### For the Further Enhancement of Core Universities in Each Country, and the Strengthening of the Network Between Universities

Until 2008, JICA provided cooperation to improve the education and research capabilities of top-level engineering universities in the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Building on the accomplishments of this endeavor, JICA is continuing its efforts to further strengthen the human network between Japan and ASEAN through activities including human resource development to enhance the education and research capabilities of the universities, and collaborative research on issues common to the region.

The Asian financial crisis of 1997 served as an opportunity to raise awareness that the fostering of human resources that can invigorate industry is important for the long-term sustainable development of the ASEAN region. In response to the need for human resources, with the cooperation of 11 universities in Japan, JICA established an engineering education development network among 19 representative ASEAN universities,

and has extended region-wide Technical Cooperation to foster human resources in the field of engineering since 2003.

A total of 444 academic staff of the member universities have taken advantage of the opportunity to study in other countries in the region or in Japan at the master's degree or doctorate degree level, and thereby increase their education and research capabilities. In addition, the quality of the graduate programs of the universities accepting them has also improved through the acceptance of international students and the guidance received from Japanese professors. This has led to an invigoration of academic exchanges, as can be seen by the conclusion of partnership agreements between the member universities as well as with universities in Japan.

Based on these achievements, JICA is continuing to provide support for the improvement in

the qualifications of academic staff mainly in the less developed ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam) where needs still remain high. JICA is also promoting the participation of other universities, industrial circles and the community in academic conferences held in the region. In addition, JICA is working to conduct collaborative research on cross-sectoral issues common to the ASEAN region and the industrial world.



A student dispatched through the project conducting an experiment at De La Salle University in the Philippines

the Philippines to enhance the system for enabling safe deliveries for expectant mothers and providing adequate care for newborn babies. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, JICA equipped a university hospital with medical equipment for emergency obstetric care. In Bangladesh, JICA is promoting and communicating both at the community level and at health facilities the importance of antenatal care and of the referral system in maternal and child care. In addition, JICA is advancing preparations for the commencement of the Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) (Phase 2), which is aimed at reducing maternal and infant deaths.

## 2. Infectious Diseases Control

With three major infectious diseases, namely HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, alone claiming the lives of over 4 million people each year, infectious diseases pose a direct threat to the people in developing countries and they are also a factor in hindering economic and social development. Infectious diseases control is an issue that needs to be addressed not only by specific countries or regions, but also by the entire world, as those diseases spread around the world through economic activities and as a result of the development of transportation.

In the field of infectious diseases control, JICA mainly provides support for the improvement of access to and the quality of testing, the collection and analysis of health information, and strengthening service providers' capacities to provide necessary

treatment and care services. Moreover, JICA supports policy making at the national level, and enhancing service delivery at health facilities at the sub-regional level. In fiscal 2010, JICA launched a project entitled "Health Systems Strengthening for HIV and AIDS Services Project in Tanzania", which provides support to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems with supervision in order to improve the quality of HIV and AIDS responses implemented at health and medical facilities. In addition, JICA is implementing various projects under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) in Asia and Africa, utilizing Japan's knowledge in the field of research and development on infectious diseases, and is also promoting joint research on tropical diseases.

## 3. Health Systems Strengthening

"Health systems" refer to the frameworks that form bases for the provision of health care and medical services to people (improving governance, improving medical facilities, managing proper medical products, identifying and effectively utilizing accurate health information, and securing and managing financial resources) as well as to the fostering and managing human resources for health [→ See the Case Study below]. While it is necessary to take a balanced approach to addressing the issues of specific diseases and strengthening of entire health systems a number of partnerships have been established by various organizations that specialize in strengthening key components

### Case Study Cambodia Health System Strengthening Program

## For the Provision of High-Quality Health Services

**Under the Pol Pot administration in the late 1970s, Cambodia's health systems suffered catastrophic damage. Since the early stages of reconstruction, JICA has been providing active support mainly for maternal and child health and for tuberculosis control. Since fiscal 2009, JICA has extended cooperation with a focus on support designed to lead to the strengthening of the entire health systems.**

### Aiming to Improve Health Services for All Cambodians

Children's health is improving in Cambodia, but the Maternal Mortality Rate remains high and the country still faces numerous challenges such as health status disparities between urban and rural areas. In response, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been implementing the National Health Strategy with a view to improving the health services provided to all Cambodian people, especially to the poor and to women and children, by 2015, and JICA is supporting these efforts jointly with other donors and partners.

In addition to supporting tuberculosis control and the improvement of maternal and child health, JICA provides support through Technical Cooperation projects for the building of capacity to manage medical equipment that serves as the basis to provide health services, and for the establishment of a certification system for nurses. JICA is also working to improve systems that best match the actual situation of the country, including by supporting the renovation of provincial hospitals through Grant Aid.

The Project for Improving Maternal and Newborn Care through Midwifery Capacity Development carries out activities to establish a maternal care system that can bring satisfaction to both the pregnant women and health workers. The Project on Strengthening of Medical Equipment Management in Referral

Hospitals works not only on the maintenance, checking and repair of medical equipment, but also on the establishment of a system for maintaining and managing medical equipment in conjunction with hospital management including equipment allocation and budget planning.



Checking the technical level of midwives during a hands-on technique training course (Project for Improving Maternal and Newborn Care through Midwifery Capacity Development)

of health systems. In light of this situation, JICA is expected to play a role in supporting developing countries, in harmony with international initiatives and these existing partnerships.

JICA actively contributes to the formulation of national health plans and budgets, and supports the smooth implementation of these plans. The Project for Strengthening Management for Health in Nyanza Province in Kenya and other JICA-supported projects extend cooperation for improving the functions that constitute the health systems (including strengthening of local administration, reinforcement of local health services, and improvement of health information systems, etc.). On the other hand, in other projects such as the Project for Strengthening Integrated Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services in Laos, JICA supports implementation of the national health program that includes maternal and child health and infectious diseases control from the perspective of strengthening the health system.



Hands-on training on safety supervision at a construction site (Project for Improving Occupational Safety and Health Administration of Department of Occupational Safety and Health of Malaysia)

## Social Security

### Overview of Issue

There are countries as well as larger regions such as Asia that have achieved remarkable economic growth in recent years. On the other hand, increases in economic disparities have become pronounced, while many vulnerable people are being left behind in receiving benefits from economic growth.

In order to establish a stable society while maintaining economic growth, it is essential to enhance medical and income security. It is also important not only for individuals but also for society as a whole to make preparations to deal with various risks. Furthermore, providing support for the independence of the socially vulnerable promotes their participation in social and economic activities, which also has the potential to contribute to the expansion of the consumer class as well as to financial stability.

JICA is extending cooperation in the area of social security from the perspective of promoting inclusive cooperation.

### JICA Activities

Based on Japan's knowledge and experience in social security systems, JICA is undertaking projects aimed at improving the social security systems of developing countries, focusing on the three areas of social insurance and social welfare, assistance for persons with disabilities, and labor and employment.

#### 1. Social Insurance and Social Welfare

JICA supports the development of social insurance systems such as medical security and income security (including pensions), as well as strengthening social welfare policies for the elderly, children and mothers. In recent times, JICA provided support in response to the aging society in Thailand, including the development of human resources involved in healthcare and

medical and welfare services for the elderly [ → See the Case Study on page 37].

#### 2. Support for Persons with Disabilities

Even though support for persons with disabilities is generally considered as a part of social welfare services, JICA views persons with disabilities not simply as recipients of welfare services but also as important actors of development. JICA's ultimate goal is to build a society that is comfortable to live in for all people, regardless of disabilities.

JICA aims at realizing the "full participation and equality" of people with disabilities in developing countries, with emphasis on support that ensures active participation of persons with disabilities in society. JICA is working to empower persons with disabilities through leadership training and strengthening disabled people's organizations, as well as creating barrier-free environments [ → See the Case Study on page 103].

#### 3. Labor and Employment

In addition to support for the development of policies for labor and employment, JICA provides support in such fields as occupational health and safety and work placement services. In developing countries, in contrast to the achievement of economic development, legal frameworks and enforcement of such legislation in the field of occupational health and safety tend to be underdeveloped, resulting in a significant increase in labor accidents.

When workers who have been injured at work cannot receive adequate compensation, they lose their source of income and face the risk of immediately falling into extreme poverty. As labor accidents also pose a great risk not only to laborers and their families, but also to employers and to society, JICA is providing support for the improvement of occupational health and safety in Malaysia and other countries.

## For the Empowerment of All Persons with Disabilities

Cooperation is underway in the Asia-Pacific region with persons with disabilities playing central roles so that they will be able to carry out activities for the promotion of a barrier-free society jointly with those without disabilities. JICA is providing support in order to empower all persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of disability, to further drive forward the movements toward promoting a barrier-free society that have been started in each country.



Activities being carried out by Dao Ruang Group, Thailand's first self-help group of persons with intellectual disabilities, which was established through the APCD Project



Interview with a man with a disability who was involved in a subway barrier-free construction project (Bangkok, Thailand)

### Persons with Disabilities are Themselves Changing Society

There are estimated to be about 400 million people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, many of whom are unable to obtain opportunities to participate in society such as education and employment or to receive necessary services. With the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), which was constructed through Grant Aid, in Thailand serving as the project base, JICA, working together with Thailand, has provided Technical Cooperation to 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific since 2002.

Under the basic principle that persons with disabilities are not the recipients of services, but are important actors who participate in the community and advance social development, the Center aims to create an environment in which persons with disabilities are guaranteed certain rights and afforded opportunities to participate in various social activities together with persons without disabilities.

The Center conducts training for persons with disabilities, their families and supporters,

and also supports their networking with people in various positions such as the staff of the relevant administrative bodies of the governments of each country and of NGOs, in addition to following up their activities after training. Experts from Japan have provided guidance on the management of the Center, the collection and dispatch of various kinds of information, and the holding of seminars and events related to disabilities.

### Barrier-Free Environments Realized in Various Places

In the course of cooperation extended over a five-year period, more than 900 persons with disabilities and relevant people have received training. The

trainings have resulted in the emergence of leaders with disabilities in each country. They have also begun movements to disseminate their own experience of receiving training to other persons with disabilities in their own countries, including through the establishment of organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and the holding of workshops. There have been cases where persons with disabilities who had been staying home for years have started to go out, to live independent lives in the local area, or even to gain access to a variety of organizations and institutions. As these cases indicate, persons with disabilities are expanding their activities. Appeals made by the participants in the training sessions have also led to the creation of a barrier-free environment at a subway station in Bangkok and at one of Asia's largest shopping malls in the Philippines.

Building on such outcomes, JICA has been providing cooperation with the second phase of the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) Project since 2007. The second phase of the project focuses on the empowerment of persons with hearing

impairments and intellectual disabilities, who found it difficult to participate in the first phase, in an effort to give consideration to all types of disabilities. The dispatch of a Japanese person with an intellectual disability as a short-term expert and the invitation of a leader with an intellectual disability from Thailand have had a significant impact, which has led to the establishment of the first self-help group for persons with intellectual disabilities in Thailand.

JICA is aiming to further strengthen the networks it has established up to now in order to further its contribution in each country toward empowering all persons with disabilities and creating an equitable society that is comfortable for everybody.

#### From Our Partner

**Ms Phacharin Sujaritwatanasak,**  
current leader of Dao Ruang (a group of persons with intellectual disabilities)

Through the training conducted in Japan and the dispatch of a short-term expert with an intellectual disability, we, as people with intellectual disabilities in Thailand, came to understand the concept of "self-advocacy," and established Dao Ruang. We gained the inspiration to develop a dishwasher detergent to generate funds so that the group could continuously engage in activities, and with support from JICA's project, we are steadily increasing our sales.

Furthermore, I visited Myanmar as the resource person of the JICA project to share with those with intellectual disabilities in Myanmar the experience of establishing Dao Ruang. Through this experience, I have gained strong confidence that even I can be the leader of a group.

(Note: At the time of this mission, the first group of persons with intellectual disabilities in Myanmar was also established.)



Filling bottles with dishwasher detergent. Dao Ruang's leader on the left.