

Upraising People’s Living Standard

“Poverty reduction” is our final goal to assist Nepal. While economy in Nepal has been growing gradually, most of people in Nepal live under low income without access to basic social services. JICA conducts programs to generate income to people, and help to provide services to meet everyone’s “Basic Human Needs”.

Agriculture

About 80% of population of Nepal are living in rural area, and are engaged in agriculture as their main way of living. The Government of Nepal has formulated an Agriculture Perspective in 1995 to reduce poverty by improvement of production and productivity in agriculture sector, but much remain to be

implemented to achieve the goal until today. Agriculture in Nepal is in nature with the traditional farming practice that is not cost effective, and does not improve the living standard substantial. Accordingly, JICA has been supporting the promotion of high-value agricultural products to upgrade the living standard of the majority people in Nepal with the following focuses.

- To provide Irrigation and fertilizer which are necessary agricultural input for food security.
- To expand high-value crop, fisheries and livestock through technical assistance for income and employment generation especially in the hill area.
- Capacity building of human resources and institutions at different level such as farmers, communities and districts under the frame work of decentralization.

Front Line: For the dream of Nepalese Silk

The diverse ecological and topographical character of Nepal could one of the opportunity for agricultural productivity, and it is favorable to produce the bivoltine silk with good quality. Sericulture can give more than five times of income than any other cereal crops and generates intensive employment in the rural areas. Besides, that is the only vocation with intensive involvement of women, addresses the degrading soil erosion in the steep slope and provides the environmental friendly sustainable development in a mountainous country like Nepal.

Looking at these aspects, the government of Nepal has considered the sericulture as one of the prime sector to alleviate the poverty, generate the employment in the rural areas and improve the living standard of the poverty stricken rural poor of Nepal. To join this endeavor, JICA has extended her technical cooperation since 1999. The technical cooperation has been extended government technicians, and grass root farmers. Some of the field of Technical Cooperation are eggs production, silk worm rearing and proper management and rearing of the mulberry farming that are suitable to the Nepalese agro climate and adaptable at the rural farmers situation.

This has brought significant improvement made in terms of the socio-economic condition of rural people, and it has been that sericulture could be one of the successful vocation in transforming the traditional agriculture based economy for the improvement of the living standard of rural poor people in more sustainable manner.



Year	
1974-1984	Janakapur Agriculture Development Project
1985	Development Study: Construction of Food Storage
1985-1990	Horticulture Development Project I
1991-1994	Development Study: M/P on the Terai Ground Water Resources Evaluation & Development Project
1991-1996	Natural Water Fisheries Development Project
1992-1997	Horticulture Development Project II
1992-1993	Development Study: F/S on the Rajkudwa Irrigation Project
1996-1998	Natural Water Fisheries Development Project Follow-up
1997-1999	Horticulture Development Project II Follow-up
1991-	Grant Aid for Increased Food Production KR II
1999-2002	Mini-Project for Sericulture Promotion

Enhancing the Capability and Capacity

— JICA provides a variety of Training program for sharing experiences and knowledge.

Training program

Training program is regarded as JICA's one of the fundamental and vital way of cooperation. To enhance the power of Nepalese people to develop the nation, and for Nepal's self-reliance technical capacity building effort. Trainees are accepted in Japan and in other countries in the various fields to meet the demand of Nepal, from agriculture to communication technology. JICA organises more than 600 regular courses every year and accepts nearly 16,000 participants from about 150 countries.

Up to now, about 3,000 Nepalese participants have been participated in JICA training program since 1954.

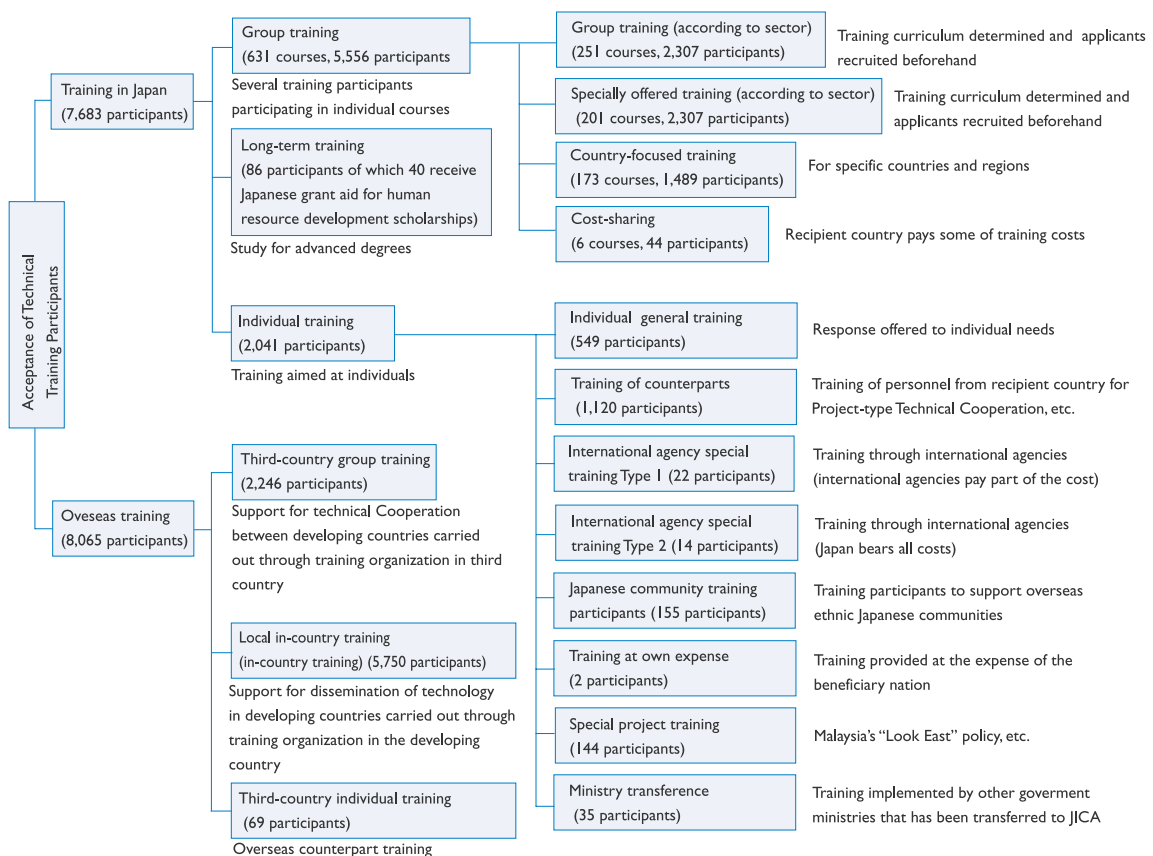
The Youth Invitation Program

The Youth Invitation Program has an objective to deepen mutual trust, understanding and friendship for the future construction of peaceful and prosperous society in the 21st century, while it is a part of technical co-operation scheme for human development. The program initially was designed to invite young people of ASEAN countries to Japan in 1984, and have been extended to more than 120 countries until today. As for Nepal, it started in 1991 as "South East Asia Friendship program", and continued to invite 10 teachers from various districts every year.

In 2001, the number of participants has been increased to 15, considering positive impact that this program has been bringing to the schools. The program is conducted in Japan for about 4 weeks, with the specific theme such as "School Health" or "School management", so that teachers can learn teaching methods or know-how during their stay in Japan.



Types of JICA training (numbers are of Japanese Fiscal year 2000)



Working together in the field.....

SHARING SMILES AND TEARS TOGETHER WITH NEPALESE PEOPLE

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is the Japanese young people who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development of the developing countries. Since its start in 1965, more than 20,000 JOCVs has been dispatched to nearly 70 countries.

The first arrival of JOCVs in Nepal was in 1970. Since then, more than 700 JOCVs have already shared their skills, expertise and technical know how in many sectors while they appreciate the same lifestyle as the local community. Over the years, JOCV has played as active role as a partner in Nepal's socio-economic development process, which can be said to be the main reason for increasing demands of JOCVs year by year. For over the past 31 years, JOCVs have involved in many fields. Some of the main achievements by JOCVs and Nepalese counterparts are as following.

- **Agriculture:** fruits growing, live-stock, high value vegetable growing

nursery management, cold water fishery development to motivate farmers by adopting the method "learning by doing". Altogether more than 220 JOCVs have shared their technical knowledge with Nepalese counterparts in agriculture sector.

- **Education:** library science, geological research, science and mathematics teaching, vocational training and physical education. Altogether more than 150 Japanese have participated in the education sector. Education sector has taken the biggest share of JOCVs in Nepal.
- **Health and Medical:** family planning, nurses, and midwives. A large number of JOCVs have worked in the hospitals, such as Kanti Children Hospital, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Bir Hospital, and many zonal hospitals. Altogether more than 140 volunteers have served in Health sector in the past.

Front Line: Bringing Japanese sweet persimmon "kaki" to NEPAL

Nepalese persimmons contain astringent until they are completely ripened and jelled. People do not eat unripe bitter ones; therefore, persimmons in Nepal had been mainly the offering to Gods. On the other hand, Japanese persimmons do not contain any astringent even when they are young and crisp.

In order to increase farmers' income, and to extend agricultural market economy, Horticulture Development Projects (HDP and HDP2) had conducted on the purpose of introduction of high-valued new variety of fruits in the collaboration of Ministry of Agriculture since 1985. Under this cooperation, many new kinds of fruits and vegetables suitable to the climates and soils of NEPAL of which origin is Japan have been introduced. Sweet persimmon is one of them.

Now, JOCV volunteers and Nepalese counterparts are working hard together to extend sweet persimmons to local farmers. The trees are growing, as the strong tag between Japanese young generation and Nepalese people are growing.



BRINGING EXPERIENCED KNOW-HOW AND KNOWLEDGE TO NEPAL

Senior Volunteer

The generation, who worked so hard to build up the nations and took leadership towards economic prosperity in Japan after the World War II are now in 50s to 70s. Their such vitality and energy can directly contribute to the development of human resources in developing countries to assist the process of nation building. In this view, JICA introduced Senior Volunteer in 1990. Their activities are not limited to technology transfer but extended to deepen friendship between two countries in close contact with local communities.

The first Senior Volunteer to Nepal was dispatched in 1995. Since then, we have been dispatching Senior Volunteer focusing on three major development fields based on our strategy as following.

- **Agriculture** activities to generate additional income and agro-marketing: food quality control, cultivation of flowers, dairy development, soil fertility management etc.
- **Social welfare and education** to uplift living standard of people who are backward and disabled: education to blind and visually impaired persons, disabled persons and deaf and hard of hearing persons, reproductive health Family Planning etc.
- **Tourism development** to earn foreign currency through quality services: hotel management, tourism development, museum curator etc.



Front Line: Education for the Low Vision

Only a little people know the word of 'Low Vision' in Nepal even though there are many people with low vision besides those who are blind.

The children with low vision are poor in terms the skill to see with maximum utilization of their existing capacity of sight. Usually they are taught in Braille as same as the Blind children, even when they can see it with strong glasses or big characters. Besides normal type of low vision, there are another types of low vision, some of which is the difficulty in recognizing certain colors, or other is the weakness for certain range of vision.

JICA Senior Volunteer Mr. Ryoji Takeuchi was trying hard to extend understanding for low vision and to teach technique for low vision. The skill should be easy for their family, friends and teachers, with cheaper materials. He shared his knowledge and know-how of technique with teachers and resource person of CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) project.

Mr. Takeuchi explains that the situation for the children of low vision in Nepal is same as in Japan about forty years ago reflecting his experiences as schoolteacher for blinds in Japan.

Mr. Hom Nath Aryal, an officer of Nepal Association for the Welfare of the Blind (NAWB) has been working hard to help the low vision in Nepal, even after Mr. Ryoji Takeuchi had gone back to Japan.





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