

Outline of JICA Partnership Program

1. What is JICA Partnership Program?

Background

The Japanese Government has various assistance programs to meet diverse needs of developing countries through Official Development Assistance (ODA). In international cooperation, the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) or local governments has become more important both in Japan and developing countries, therefore, JICA Partnership Program (hereinafter referred to as "JPP") was introduced in 2002 as a new scheme of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the executing agency for technical cooperation of the Government of Japan.

Objectives

JPP is technical cooperation program implemented by JICA to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries at the grass-roots level in collaboration with partners in Japan, such as NGOs, universities, local governments and public interest corporations (hereinafter referred to as "Partners in Japan").

The main objectives of JPP are as follows:

1. To meet diverse needs of developing countries by utilizing the knowledge and experience of various Partners in Japan for international cooperation activities.
2. To strengthen collaboration between communities of both developing countries and Japan by promoting the participation of Japanese citizens in international cooperation activities.
3. To encourage local citizens in Japan to employ their accumulated knowledge, experience and technology for international cooperation activities which in turn revitalize Japanese communities.

Target Countries

The target countries shall be those which have approved the acceptance of the JPP as well as those where JICA Overseas Offices and JICA/JOCV Offices are located (See Table 1: "Target Countries").

Table 1: Target Countries

REGION	TARGET COUNTRIES
Asia	India / Indonesia / Viet Nam / Uzbekistan / Cambodia / Sri Lanka / Thailand / China / Nepal / Pakistan / Bangladesh / Philippines / Malaysia / Myanmar / Mongolia / Laos / Kyrgyz / East Timor /Bhutan
Middle East	Afghanistan (Kabul and Kandahar only) / Egypt / Saudi Arabia / Jordan / Syria / Tunisia / Turkey / Palestine / Morocco
Africa	Ethiopia / Ghana / Kenya / Zambia / Zimbabwe / Senegal / Tanzania / Nigeria / Burkina Faso / Madagascar / Malawi / South Africa / Mozambique / Uganda/ Cote d'Ivoire / Niger / Botswana / Rwanda
Latin America	Argentina / Colombia / Chile / Dominican Republic / Panama / Paraguay / Brazil / Peru / Bolivia / Honduras / Mexico / El Salvador / Guatemala / Costa Rica / Jamaica / Nicaragua
Oceania	Samoa / Papua New Guinea / Fiji / Vanuatu / Solomon / Tonga / Palau / Micronesia
East Europe	Bulgaria / Romania

*Target countries are subject to change under certain circumstances.

Characteristics of the JPP

- The program is implemented by JICA in collaboration with Partners in Japan based on the proposals submitted by the Partners.
- The recipient government's approval is necessary prior to implementation of the program or individual projects depending on the procedures agreed upon between the two governments. Because JPP is not based on official requests from the recipient government, there is no requirement for an international agreement between the governments of both the recipient country and Japan.
- The recipient government is not required to grant any special privileges such as immunity for tax exemption to Partners in Japan. However, the recipient government is expected to accord the same privileges, exemptions and benefits as those accorded to any third country organizations or any international organizations performing a similar mission in that recipient country.

2. Scope of the JICA Partnership Program

Category of activities to be supported by the JPP

The JPP supports technical cooperation programs that bring social and economic development to developing countries at the grass-roots level.

JPP Components

Dispatch of persons from Japan and/or acceptance of persons from the recipient country for training in Japan are major components of JPP. Projects that focus primarily on the provision of equipment or the construction of buildings and facilities will not be supported by JICA as JPP.

The entrustment of the main activities to another organization is not permitted in principle in JPP. Minor activities that require specific expertise may be entrusted to an individual or to another organization (including local NGOs).

Eligible Organizations

Only NGOs, universities, local governments, public interest corporations and NPOs based in Japan shall submit proposals to JICA. Local NGOs in recipient countries may engage in the operation of individual projects by cooperating with the above-mentioned Japanese organizations. International NGOs that have a branch office in Japan may submit proposals through the branch office in Japan.

Period of Individual Projects

Individual projects will be implemented for a maximum of three (3) years. The specific length of each project will be decided based on the characteristics and goals of the project.

3. Process from Project Proposal to Implementation

(1) From Project Proposal to Pre-approval*1

Partners may submit a proposal to or consult with the nearest JICA Domestic Office*2 on the project they wish to carry out. The JICA Domestic Office reviews the proposal through consultation with JICA Headquarters, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, a JICA Overseas Office or a JICA/JOCV Office, a Japanese Embassy, and/or experts. A JICA Overseas Office or a JICA/JOCV Office, and/or a Japanese Embassy may consult or exchange information with the recipient country's government and counterpart organizations.

JICA Headquarters select pre-approved programs from the proposals based on a review by JICA Domestic Office. See Fig. 1: "Flow Chart of the JICA Partnership Program and Role of the Recipient Country."

(2) From Official Approval to Implementation

Official approval from the recipient country is required in order to implement the project. The most effective and efficient procedures will be undertaken by both JICA and the recipient country to obtain this official approval. The current procedures are as follows:

- a. Written notification from a JICA Overseas Office or a JICA/JOCV Office, or a Japanese Embassy to the responsible organization of the recipient country's government.
- b. Signing of minutes between a JICA Overseas Office or a JICA/JOCV Office and the responsible organization of the recipient country or a responsible ministry.
- c. Exchange of verbal notes that establish an international agreement.

The JICA Domestic Office and the Partners conclude a contract for entrusting the operations to launch the project after the official approval of the project.

*1 : Pre-approval means the stage where the selection process in Japan has been completed but the recipient country's official approval has yet to be obtained. Programs shall be officially adopted if the recipient country's official approval is obtained.

*2 : There are 16 JICA Domestic Offices throughout Japan, which offer an opportunity for people in developing countries and Japan to connect each other through various international cooperation programs including technical training in Japan. 16 offices of the JICA Domestic Offices accept proposals.

(3) Monitoring and Evaluation

During project implementation, Partners and/or counterparts in the recipient country manage the project, and JICA monitors it through reports or visits to the site. The project will be evaluated through reports and/or an open seminar after completion of the project.

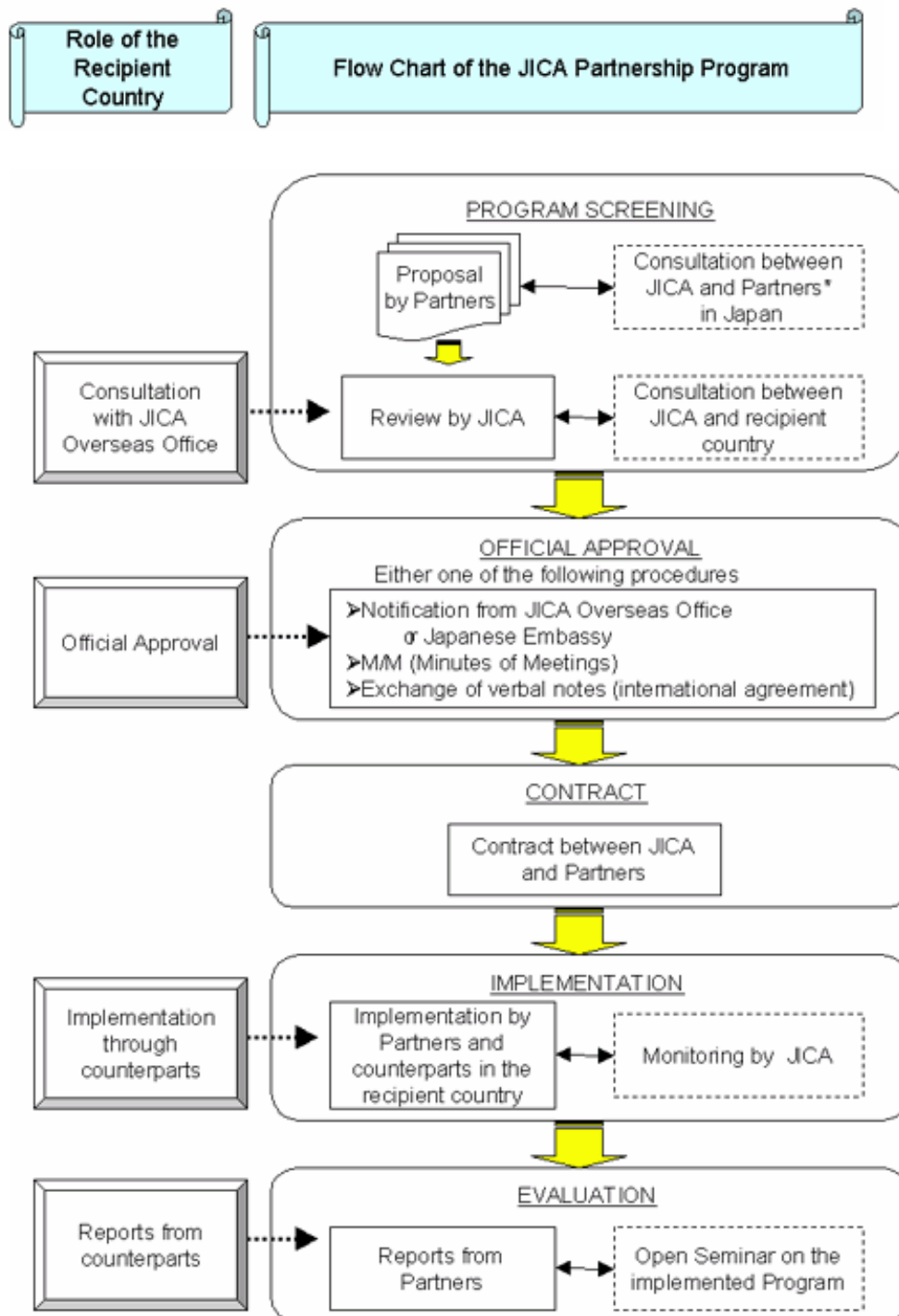


Fig.1: Flow Chart of the JPP and Role of the Recipient Country

* Partners mean partner organization of JICA in Japan, such as NGOs, universities, local governments and public interest corporations.