

Introducing Yumi Nakagawa, JICA's Secondee to the IDB



Hello! My name is Yumi Nakagawa, and I am JICA's new secondee to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). It is a pleasure to introduce myself to JICA's partner organizations.

Since 2006, I have worked in the international development field for Japan's bilateral aid agencies, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). During those 15 years, I worked across a wide variety of sectors, including energy, infrastructure, and water and sanitation (WASH), as well as in various modes of operation, including loan, technical cooperation, and grant projects across the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Oceania. In 2017, I decided to dedicate myself to JICA's operations in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region and moved to Mexico to study Spanish for a year. After my time in Mexico, I was assigned as the Assistant Resident Representative of the JICA Peru Office, where I was tasked with monitoring and supervising sovereign loan projects, as well as formulating and implementing technical cooperation projects in the energy, WASH, and health sectors. This July, after concluding my two-year and 10-month assignment in Peru, I have begun to transition to my new role as JICA's secondee to the IDB.



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In 2011, the IDB and JICA signed a framework agreement called Co-financing for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CORE) to support clean energy investments, as well as investments in the WASH and transportation sectors to mitigate climate change impacts in the LAC region. Recently, in March 2021, the IDB and JICA signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MOC) to expand the reach of CORE, now rebranded as the Cooperation for Economic Recovery and Social Inclusion program. This new MOC extends the period of cooperation between JICA and the IDB by five years and expands co-financing opportunities in the disaster risk management and global health sectors, and it further promotes quality infrastructure investments. Under the new MOC, JICA will strengthen private sector collaborations to support the region's economic growth potential by making available new funds to co-finance projects with IDB Invest and the IDB Lab, the private sector arms of the IDB Group.

As the new JICA secondee to the IDB, I will focus on promoting JICA-IDB activities under the CORE program among the IDB's 26 borrowing member countries. Given that each

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country faces different development issues and varying political, economic, and geographic contexts, I believe it is very important for development partners to work hand-in-hand with partner organizations to maximize the impact of their cooperation. In this sense, I believe close collaborations with the IDB are particularly critical, given that they are the main source of multilateral development finance across the LAC region. Therefore, I am very excited to work at the IDB to learn together and further realize our shared goals under the CORE program.