

Some Projects for Governance Strengthening



Project of Technical Assistance for the Legal and Judicial System Reform

Since 1996, JICA has been implementing 3 phases of the Project for Japanese Cooperation to Support the Formulation of Key Government Policies on Legal System to provide support for law drafting and systemization of legal normative documents as well as human resources development in the legal and judicial field. In phase 4, through pilot activities to be undertaken in Bac Ninh province, experiences concerning the improvement in capacity of adjudication and execution works as well as tasks of the judicial support system are accumulated and simultaneously absorbed, analyzed and utilized by central judicial authorities and the unified central lawyers association. The Program is thereby aimed to improve the capacity of central judicial authorities and unified central lawyers association concerning supervision over and providing support to local judicial authorities and lawyers nationwide as well as the framework supporting adjudication and execution works.



Project for Capacity Development of ODA Management in Vietnam

ODA is contributing to and playing an important role in developing countries' socio-economic development and in quality of people's life. In Vietnam, ODA in terms of fund scale and project numbers are increasing, thus, requiring solutions for effective ODA utilization such as simplifying complicated administrative procedures, formulating potential projects, keeping project's progress timely, and enhancing capacity in project monitoring and evaluation...

In that context, the project's purpose is to enhance the capacity of ODA management and utilization, (mainly on project formulation and evaluation), of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) who is the aid coordination agency of the Government of Vietnam, as well as aid recipient organizations. We support the improvement of working environments for ODA management at MPI, by effective IT utilization, through the implementation of new IT infrastructure and systems, and workflow and enhancement of knowledge on ODA project formulation among staff of related ministries and branches, and organizing seminars on ODA procedures.



The Project for the Socio-Economic Development Reform in Hoa Binh Province

In order to push for economic and social development as well as poverty reduction in Vietnam, it is critical for the Vietnamese government itself to plan strategically, allocate necessary budgets, and implement policies accordingly. In the era of decentralization, it is local governments who play a key role in these actions, but their capacities are still limited. The Socio-economic Development Planning Reform Project in Hoa Binh province aims at strengthening the institutional framework and developing capacity of local governments to facilitate such better planning. Specifically, the project is supporting to the drafting of "Planning Guideline", and conducting training for local officials at commune, district and provincial level.

JICA's Activities in Vietnam (2)

Volunteer Program

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Since the first volunteers were sent to Vietnam in 1995, a total of 200 JOCVs have been activate in many provinces and cities in the country as of the end 2007. They mainly work in the fields of agro-forest- fishery, construction and design, healthcare, education, culture and sports,... and devote their best efforts to the human resource development as well as nation building in Vietnam. Besides, through daily activities, JOCVs and local people can exchange and understand each other deeply, and thereby are able to contribute to the development of both countries.

I am working in the Center for Disabled Children in Bien Hoa, Dong Nai. There are 150 visually and hearing impaired children in the school. As a teacher of Art, I am trying to improve the teaching quality for the children and help them stand on their own. Although body language is mainly used in communication, these warm hearted children always give me good feelings. I will try my best and sincerely hope that my students can become self-reliant based on what they learn here. (Ms. Miyazawa Aya, Fine Arts).



I am working in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Bac Giang Province. In my activities, I also cooperate with other JOCVs in the same area. At present, in a selected model village, I try to introduce them a vegetable plantation technique of another JOCV, and at the same times, I speak and exchange with local people to understand better the situation in the village. (Mr. Kono Kenichi, Rural Development).



Senior Volunteers (SV)

Beginning from 2001, a total of 27 SVs have been sent to Vietnam as of the end 2007. In these first 5 years, they have been highly appreciated by their Vietnamese counterparts. Effective assignment is paid much attention by the Program to ensure that SVs' capacity and experience in technical instructions, SME management, quality control ... in Japanese organizations, enterprises will be brought into full play.



Vietnam's handicraft products are well known in Japan. One of my activities is to design laquered products and when taking part in Vietnam's Handicraft Product Contest 2006, I was a lucky winner. Among many traditional styled handicraft products, I tried new designs aimed at international markets and that has been successful. This achievement is not only mine, but since this first prize, I hope my recipient organization would develop further into the future. (Ms. Sawada Miyoko, Design and Marketing).



Vietnam is a young country At the Vietnam Productivity Center where I am working, staff aging 20 to 30 account for 70%. These young people are, with new technology and new ways of thinking, giving advice and consultations on productivity increases and quality improvements in accordance to ISO standards, to enterprises. The working environment of the youth who are half of my age is much different from the old people in Japan, and makes me feel fresh and younger. (Mr. Ikeda Masahiro, Productivity Management).

JICA Partnership Program (JPP)

This program started in Vietnam in 2002. Focusing on improvement of living conditions and standards, many projects at grassroots level are running in various fields such as: community development, disability support, improvement of nutrition, mother and child care, income generation, disaster mitigation, forestry and forest protection, and sustainable natural resource utilization.



Participatory Approach for Contribution to Improvement of Safe Water, Nutrition and Health Environment in 3 Rural Communes in Vietnam (ILSI Japan)

In rural areas in Vietnam, unclean water and low-quality healthcare services are reasons children get diarrhea or other infectious diseases repeatedly. ILSI Japan in collaboration with the National Institute of Nutrition have carried out activities in 3 selected provinces in the northern rural area, aiming at provision of clean water, improvement of nutrition, and healthcare services. Through a participatory approach, the project has improved water treatment facilities, conducted training on water treatment system operation and management, provided information on water, food hygiene, and nutrition. The Project is operating from November 2005 to November 2008 and is expected to have its activities continued by communities even after the Project's completion.



Support persons with physical disabilities in Vietnam through community rehabilitation and their empowerment (IUHW)

In Vietnam, the number of patients who suffer brain injury due to traffic accident and patients living with cerebro-vascular disorder that originates from the development of economic growth has significantly increased in recent years. In order to help these disabled people be able to integrate into the community, Japan International Medicine University established the Supporting Center for Disabled People in 2006 which is located at Physiotherapy Department of Cho Ray Hospital, Ho Chi Minh city. Under the operation of the center, many activities have been carried out such as: home examination, day health care at hospital, peer counseling for improving capacity and social skills etc... The project is planned to finish in 2008; however, Cho Ray hospital together with this network will keep carrying out their activities as above after then.



Enhancing Community Resilience and Livelihood Security to Cope with Natural Disaster in Central Vietnam (GSGES)

The Central Region is among poor regions of Vietnam; in addition, serious consequence of typhoons and landslides during rainy seasons severely affects daily life and safety of the local people. The Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (GSGES), Kyoto University co-ordinate with the College of Agriculture and Forestry - Hue University to implement activities to protect the environment, improve household economy and ensure the lives and property of local people in the three communes located in the mountain, plain and lagoon of the Bo River watershed in Thua Thien Hue province. The project has started in September 2006. Local people in 3 communes of the project sites are actively participate into project activities, for example, making community house, establishing environment groups in schools, reviving traditional textile techniques of the ethnic minority groups, introducing vanilla crops, raising goats and pigs, implementing training courses on agricultural techniques and environment; and draw map of serious natural disaster-affected areas.

Acceptance of Trainees and Training Programme for Young Leaders

Acceptance of Trainees to Japan and JICA Alumni

Since 1991, around 4,000 Vietnamese technicians and personnel, who play a key role in Vietnam's development, have been invited to Japan to learn Japanese skills and technology in various fields as of the end 2007. In 2003, JICA Alumni was established with an aim to help ex-participants update their knowledge and experience gained through JICA training, create a link between ex-participants and JICA projects, and further develop the relationship among ex-participants.

During the course, I learnt how to study, analyze, and identify the role and function of civil social organizations in Japanese society which are becoming clearer and more appreciated. However, during their evolution and development, these organizations have faced many difficulties and challenges. Such experience of Japanese civil social organizations will be a valuable lesson for those in Southeast Asia in general, and Vietnam in particular, when building administrative reform programs, improving the effectiveness of the partnership between local governments and civil social organizations. (Mr. Vu Hai Nam, Training Course on Cooperation between Local Government and Civil Social Organizations).



Although time for studying and staying in Okinawa, Japan, was short, I understood the good discipline, spirit of hard-work, care, enthusiasm, heritage protection, cultural exchange, and transfer of technology to other countries in the world. Returning to Vietnam, I can easily apply what I have gained in Japan, to my current work, to help Vietnam's fruit exports to the demanding world market in the coming times. I would like to thank JICA for creating the opportunity for me to study in Japan. (Ms. Tran Thi Viet Ha, Training Course on Plant Quarantine (Treatment Technique Against Fruit Flies) II).



Training Programme For Young Leaders and the Vietnam Alumni Club of the Youth Friendship Program

This program, through profession training courses conducted in Japan, aims not only at developing the human resources for Vietnam which are essential factors for the development of the nation but also tightening the relationship and enhancing mutual understanding between Vietnam and Japan. In addition, it also creates a heartfelt and faithful friendship among the youth of the two countries which is established through visits of Vietnamese young people in Japan. The Program was named as "Youth Invitation Program" till 2006, and from the year 2007, has been changed to "Training Program for Young leaders". There have been around 1,400 Vietnamese young people to be invited to Japan under this program since 1995. In 2002, Vietnam Alumni Club of the Training Program was established under the guideline "Peace – Independence - Equality" aiming at creating the cooperation not only among Vietnamese ex-participants but also between the ex-participants of Vietnam and those of other neighborhood countries.



Arriving in Japan, I was greatly impressed by a modern industrial and green country. After a 6 hour flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Osaka, I placed my feet in Japan which is famous with Fuji Mountain and Sakura. During my time in Japan, I was surprised with a complicated but perfect subway system in Tokyo and Osaka. I usually saw Japanese people walking quickly on the streets or reading quietly in the trains. A good experience for me was to see public garbage baskets everywhere, with separation of 3 kinds of waste. I also heard that waste separation at source is taught both at home and schools. (Mr. Do Anh Tuan, Administrative Group, FY2006).



The nervous feeling of being first time in Japan, and the tired feeling, disappeared thanks to the smiles of the coordinator and JICA's staff at the airport. Homestay with a Japanese family is an unforgettable memory in my life. They welcomed me as warmly as if I was one of their family. Through daily exchanges of culture by Japanese and Vietnamese food cooking, Ao dai and Kimono dressing, we shared wonderful moments. Also, through seminars and exchange of ideas over economic development and SME development, I and the Japanese youth could understand each other better. (Ms. Duong Quynh Mai, Economic Development Group FY2006).