

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JOCV

1965-2015



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers  
Half a Century of Civil Cooperation  
in **Cambodia**



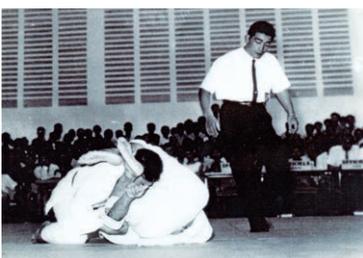
Photo: Shinichi KUNO



# JOCV

## Half a Century in Cambodia

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program was inaugurated in April 1965, with the establishment of its secretariat as part of the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (JICA's former body). The bilateral agreement between the Governments of Japan and Cambodia on the dispatch of JOCVs to Cambodia was signed in December of the same year. Immediately following this, on January 09th, 1966, the first four



1960s - 1970s

1965

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program inaugurated.

Exchange of notes (E/N) on dispatching volunteer was signed by the Governments of Japan and Cambodia.

1966

4 volunteer members arrived in Cambodia on 9<sup>th</sup> January to work in the field of sport and agriculture.

1970

All volunteer members were deported from Cambodia due to the civil war. 16 volunteers were active in the field at that time.

JOCVs arrived in Phnom Penh to work in the fields of sport and agriculture.

However, the JOCV program in Cambodia was disrupted due to the civil strife. 16 volunteers who were active in the field at that time were forced to leave the country on May 18th, 1970.

It was only in 1992, after more than two decades, that the dispatching of

volunteers to Cambodia resumed, under the current JOCV program with a view to promoting technical cooperation between Japan and Cambodia. A group of five volunteers arrived in Cambodia at the end of the year, to help the conflict-plagued country and its people in the fields of education, health and tourism.

In 1993, JICA opened its country representative office in Phnom Penh in

order to manage Official Development Assistance (ODA) programs including the JOCV program. In addition, Senior Volunteers (SV) program, under which more senior and skilled professionals are sent to work in often highly technical fields, was started in Cambodia in 2001. Today, activities of JOCVs and SVs are widely known and highly regarded as one of JICA's flagship activities in Cambodia.



Photo: Kenshiro IMAMURA



Photo: Satoshi TAKAHASHI



Photo: Stephan JANIN



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Photo: Ayako KIMURA

1990s - 2010s

1992

The program was **restarted with the dispatch of 5 volunteers** in the field of education, health and tourism.

1993

JICA opened its office in Phnom Penh. One of the main reasons for having the field office was to operate the JOCV program.

2001

**Senior Volunteers** dispatch started. **15 Senior Volunteers** were sent, mainly to work in Phnom Penh.

2015

A total of **63 volunteers** (JOCV: 40, SV: 23) are serving in Cambodia as of August 2015.

# JICA Volunteers Over the Last 50 Years in the World

## Fifty Years of Volunteers

Total 48,100 JICA Volunteers in the world as of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015

Note: Volunteers dispatched to 96 countries and regions during the 50<sup>th</sup> years through January 2105



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. Cambodia was one of a handful of countries which receive the very first batch of volunteers in 1965 - 1966 (other countries being Laos, Malaysia, Philippines and Kenya). Immediately after the more than two decades of disruption due to the civil strife, since 1992 the JOCV program has continued to respond to calls for assistance from the Government of Cambodia every year, training and sending passionate

young volunteers to share their skills and knowledge in local communities across Cambodia. During their two-year assignment, the volunteers work in about five main sectors - education, health, agriculture, tourism and vocational training.

JICA volunteers live and work alongside local people, carrying out their activities with an emphasis on fostering self-reliance. The program aims to contribute to social and economic de-

velopment through community-based efforts to address poverty, to enrich healthcare and education, and tackle various other issues to improve peoples livelihoods. To date, more than 600 volunteers have worked in 16 provinces and cities in Cambodia. Their activities have served as grassroots diplomacy fostering mutual understanding between both countries. Many of the ex JICA volunteers also come back, in order to continue working for and with the people of Cambodia.